

Hafa Adai!

'Uncle Dave' gifted with commemorative Boy Scouts coin. **PAGE 2**
TCGCC moves to a new rent-free location. **PAGE 7**

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75¢

IN CW-1 SCAM

9th Circuit affirms ruling that 99 aliens were victims of fraud

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the federal's court ruling that 99 aliens were victims of fraud by Mariano K. Pangelinan, a job place-

ment agency owner who was slapped with a six-month prison term in 2014 for conspiring with two of his then-employees in filing petitions for CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Permits (CW-1) for some aliens that fraudulently named the company as the workers' employer.

To qualify as a victim, a person must be "directly and approximately harmed" by the defendant's conduct, according to the Ninth Circuit order on Tuesday signed by Chief Judge Sidney Runyan Thomas and Circuit Judges Consuelo Maria Callahan and Mary H. Murguia.

The Circuit judges said the record
See FRAUD on Page 4

CNMI looking at ways to 'control' CW-1 cap

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is trying to find a way to assert some form of control on the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker nonimmigrant visa cap to avoid misuse; so the CNMI won't encounter the same worker and humanitarian problems it currently is facing next fiscal year.

Torres and the CNMI delegation brought up the issue during the 902 talks in Washington, D.C. last June and again in Hawaii early this month. Another round of the talks will be held before the year ends, this time on Saipan. The date and venue will be announced at a later date.

"What we are working on right now is finding out a way where the CNMI can work toward having some control over the use of foreign workers in certain positions.

See CW-1 on Page 4

CHILDHOOD AND PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, front row second left, and cancer survivor John Blanco Jr., front row left, join Commonwealth Cancer Association members and other partners in yesterday's proclamation signing declaring September as Childhood and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

JON PEREZ

See story on Page 3



IN TRIAL OF DEFENDANT IN 2ND BIGGEST DRUG HAUL IN CNMI

US govt calls DEA special agent, several others; may rests case today

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. government yesterday

called several witnesses and may rest its case today, Thursday, in the trial of Zhaopeng Chen, who is one of three defendants charged over the ship-

ment from China of 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice."

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe called the U.S. government

witnesses—Customs Officer Meynard Reyes, Drug Enforcement Task Force Officer John Henry Sablan, Drug Enforcement Task Force Of-

ficer Raymond M. Renguul, Drug Enforcement Administration special agent Kirk F. Johns, and some Cus-

See DEA on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

In a surprise move, Donald Trump will travel to Mexico on Wednesday to meet with President Enrique Pena Nieto.

PAGE 16



FOCUS

Delta Air Lines is investing \$50 million to soothe one of air travel's biggest headaches: lost and delayed luggage.

PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE

Chris Brown was arrested Tuesday afternoon on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon after a woman called for help from a gathering at his home.

PAGE 20



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Local

'Uncle Dave' gifted with commemorative Boy Scouts coin

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A commemorative coin celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America was given to David "Uncle Dave" M. Sablan by John Hirsch after the executive director of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter bought the item online.

Hirsch handed Sablan the gift during a chance encoun-

ter last Aug. 24 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in dedication to the numerous contributions Sablan made to the community of Saipan, among them founding the BSA movement on the island.

Sablan, overjoyed by the gesture, emphasizes that Hirsch must be given credit as well.

"The other day, he saw me at Fiesta having lunch and he gave me this. I thought that

it is quite deserving that we mention something about John Hirsch and the Boy Scouts of America," said Sablan in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

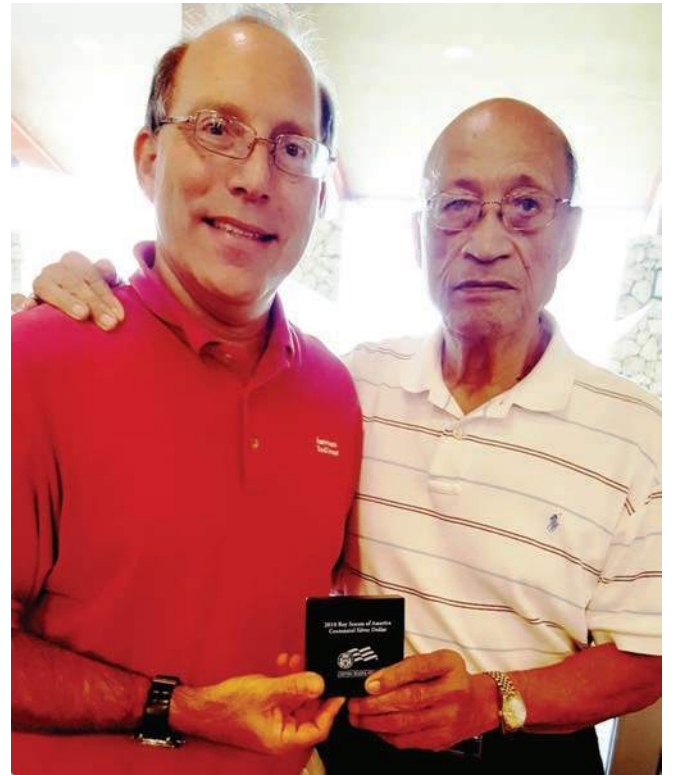
"John, remembering what I've done in scouting, bought this, and finally gave it to me last week. He knew I was essentially the founder of the Boy Scout of America here."

Hirsch shared that at first he wanted to share the pre-

sentation of the coin with others through a meeting at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce or something similar to that.

However, Hirsch deemed it as something personal and instead gave it to Sablan without much fanfare.

"I thought about giving it in a very public way, like a Chamber of Commerce meeting or some banquet or something, but then I thought



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch, left, and Tan Holdings corporate consultant David "Uncle Dave" M. Sablan pose with the silver dollar that was minted in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. Inset, he silver dollar that was minted in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.



that this was something more personal," said Hirsch. "I was going to Fiesta for lunch and thought to bring the coin with me cause I knew that he was frequently there and he and his wife were there, so I basically presented him the coin."

Aside from helping form the Boy Scouts of America on the island, Sablan also established the Saipan branch of Atkins Kroll. He also founded, part owned, and became president of Pacific Micronesia Corp. and Tasi Tours and Transportation. Sablan was also a board member of Pacific Asia Travel Association, and was also long-time board member

of the Marianas Visitors Authority. He also is a founding member and held various positions with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club of Saipan.

The coin Hirsch gave to Sablan was minted in celebration of the 100th year anniversary of The Boy Scouts of America in Feb. 8, 2010. The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is "To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

The Secretary of the Treasury of the U.S. was authorized to mint a limited number of silver dollar coins in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

Master blacksmith returns to Saipan

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Guam master blacksmith Francisco Lizama and Dr. Michael Bevacqua conducted presentations about blacksmithing at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library last Aug. 27.

The grandfather of Bevacqua, master blacksmith Joaquin Florence Lujan, who unfortunately passed just last year, taught Lizama the ways of blacksmithing.

"We basically told the story of his grandfather who taught me. He was a master blacksmith. Unfortunately he passed away last year, so now I'm the master blacksmith. We talked about the different tools

that we brought," shared Lizama on what they discussed during last weekend's workshop at the JKPL.

Lizama wishes that the culture of blacksmithing would live on along with the memories of the past master blacksmiths of his time.

"When I was here in 1990, I knew that there were two blacksmiths here. They both passed away and basically the art of blacksmithing kind of disappeared. My purpose is to revive that and bring up the culture that the two made before they died," he said.

Lizama stressed the importance of blacksmithing through a quick history lesson.

See MASTER on Page 4



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September is Childhood, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday signed two proclamations declaring September as Childhood and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. John Blanco Jr. and Florence Antonio read each of the proclamations in a simple ceremony at the Governor's Office conference room on Capitol Hill.

Blanco Jr. was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2007 but is now in remission, while Antonio is a prostate cancer survivor.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Division of Public Health Services, and other human and social services collaborated in declaring September as National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Thousands of children, in the U.S. mainland, are courageously battling pediatric cancer each year. Leukemia (blood cell cancer), brain, and central nervous system are the most common types of cancer that are diagnosed among children that are under 17, the

proclamation read.

Based on statistics, acute lymphoblastic leukemia and solid brain tumors (glioma medulloblastoma) are the two most common kinds of leukemia and brain cancer in kids in this age.

Here in the CNMI, CHCC reported a five-year average of 3.6 newly diagnosed cancer cases for children under 17. There were a total of 18 cancer cases that were diagnosed from 2007 to 2011 with 33 percent of it leukemia.

September this year is also National Prostate Cancer

Awareness Month with the said type as the most common among men. A total of 230,000 men in the U.S. learned they have prostate cancer with 30,000 succumbing to the disease since 2010.

Torres thanked Blanco and Antonio for their presence in surviving childhood and prostate cancers. "Cancer has always been a touchy subject for all of us and in the U.S. there are different types of cancer."

"We thank you both [Blanco and Antonio] for your courage in coming up here to read the proclamations and

to let us see the struggles that you have overcome and that success that you have done," said Torres.

"Thank you also to the Commonwealth Cancer Association and other partners for continuously promoting awareness. The community will always support and participated in your tireless effort in raising awareness."

CCA vice president Magdalena C. Camacho said they have always been collaborating with various agencies and businesses that help them in raising awareness in different types of cancers. "Thank you to all who help us in our ongoing efforts for education."

"We collaborate with other agencies and business. They assist us in all of our endeavors as we continue to educate everyone in the community," added Camacho, who is also a cancer survivor.

CCA has already tied blue ribbons for prostate cancer and gold ribbons for childhood cancer in parts of the island and yesterday had a roadside waving at the intersection of CHCC, Middle Road, and American Memorial Park with Torres also attending.

A Bike and 5K For Life will be held in the morning of Sept. 24 and on Sept. 30, in cooperation with Best Sunshine

See SEPTEMBER on Page 4


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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Lower Base Transfer Station, Marpi Landfill closed on Monday

In observance of Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 5, 2016,

both the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill waste disposal facilities will be closed all day. **(PR)**

Kagman cluster schools PTSA meeting today

The Kagman cluster schools—Kagman Elementary School,

Kagman High School, and Chacha Oceaview Middle School—will hold its PTSA meeting today, Sept. 1, 5pm.

PTSA is a place where

DEA

From Page 1

toms and Drug Enforcement Task Force officers.

DETF Officer Sablan was the last witness yesterday after Backe recalled him to the witness stand.

After Sablan completed his testimony, Backe informed the court that they will call more witnesses and may rests its case today, Thursday.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered a recess before 5pm and instructed the jurors to come back at 8am today, Thursday, for the continuation of the trial.

Customs Officer Reyes testified how he found the contraband hidden inside one of nine paint buckets during his routine inspection of a shipping container at the seaport in Puerto Rico on Dec. 2, 2015.

Reyes said other investigators then assisted him in the opening of each of the nine buckets for further inspection.

He said the first paint bucket he opened smelled bad like rotten milk, while the other bucket smelled worse.

Reyes said he could not see the bottom, but noticed there's something in it.

Reyes said he passed the bucket to other Customs officers.

Reyes agreed with defense counsel David G. Banes,

counsel for Chen, on cross-examination that he does not know who put the drugs in the paint.

Reyes said he does not know what it was in the paint, but he knows there something in it.

Reyes agreed with Banes that Chen was not present when they opened the paint containers. He also stated he is not aware if Chen's name was in the paint buckets.

Upon searching one of the buckets, investigators discovered three plastic wrapped bundles that weighed 4.89 lbs that were later tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

Reyes said he was with DEA special agent Johns during a surveillance of persons relating to the contraband at different places on Dec. 4, 2015.

Reyes said he was present when DETF agents arrested Chen on Dec. 4, 2015.

DETF Officer Sablan testified that he met with Customs officers and that his responsibility was to process the seized contraband that was found inside the paint container.

Sablan said he conducted a field test on the substance and found it presumptive positive with methamphetamine.

Sablan said they then decided to conduct controlled delivery by replacing the "ice" with sham or sugar.

He said there were nine paint buckets in that container, but only one had "ice" in it.

In response to Banes' ques-

tions, Sablan admitted he does not know who put the drugs in the paint bucket and did not know at the time who shipped them to Saipan.

Sablan said he is not aware if the bucket and the package were tested for DNA.

Customs and DETF Officer Renguul testified that they conducted the controlled delivery on Dec. 3, 2015 at the Sunleader warehouse in As Terlaje Hill.

Renguul said on that day, Dec. 3, nobody picked up the package at Sunleader warehouse.

He said they found out that shipment of paint buckets, which came from Guangdong China, was consigned to "Cai Shi Cheng," who never came to Saipan and set to arrive on Dec. 4, 2015.

Renguul said they conducted surveillance on Cai at the airport.

He said Cai arrived with Xi Huang at 1 or 2am at the airport on Dec. 4.

He said a Toyota Rav 4 came to pick up Cai and Huang so they followed them to Garapan.

He said the Rav 4 and another vehicle later proceeded to Summer Holiday in Garapan.

Renguul said Chen arrived on Saipan from China on Dec. 1, 2015.

Rengul agreed with Banes that Chen was not at the airport on Dec. 4 and that he was

also not at Summer Holiday as he stayed at that time at Sunshine Garden Hotel in Susupe.

After Renguul, the prosecution called again Sablan, who testified about their surveillance on Huang and Cai.

DEA special agent Johns, who is the lead investigator in the case, also testified the circumstances about their investigation that led to the arrest of Chen, Cai, and Huang.

Johns testified, among other things, that investigators observed Huang in the driver's seat of the Toyota FJ Cruiser with Chen on the passenger seat when the paint buckets were picked up at the Sunleader's warehouse.

Johns said investigators later found Chen driving the Cruiser and Huang was the passenger and Cai was the one driving the Toyota Rav 4.

Investigators observed that it was Cai who removed one paint bucket that contained the sham "ice" from RAV 4 and transferred it to a rented green Mazda 2 that was parked at Stanford Hotel in San Vicente.

The indictment charged Chen, Huang, and Cai with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine over the shipment of 4.9 lbs of "ice" worth \$850,000 in 2015.

Huang and Cai both pleaded guilty. Huang was recently slapped with 188 months imprisonment. Cai has yet to be sentenced.

behalf of 99 aliens whom he purported to employ.

The Circuit judges said to create the appearance that the employment relationship was legitimate, he required applicants to sign illusory employment contracts with the business entity he owned and charged applicants sums for employment taxes even though they did not perform work for the company or earn wages from it.

Pangelinan reassured them that their compliance was essential to the application process.

The Circuit judges cited that the record shows that during the conspiracy, Pangelinan admitted to an immigration service agent that he did not employ any of the applicants he assisted, and disregarded the warning he received from the agent that his conduct was illegal.

Based on this evidence, the judges said, they reject Pangelinan's contention that the applicants were participants in his scheme.

parents can get active and do something with the schools. Your partnership and involvement is highly encouraged!

All PTSA attendees get raffle tickets to win prizes the night of the meeting and for a chance to win in the big end-of-the-year raffle. The more you attend, the more chances you have to win!

Should you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the numbers listed below.

■ KagES main office: 664-3911

■ COVMS main office: 664-4100

■ KHS main office: 664-3780 **(PR)**

CW-1

From Page 1

So, it is a very limited cap, we have to be able to use it wisely," the administration said.

"We are looking at regulations and trying to assess what tools are available for us to ensure that the cap is not overly used by one sector or by one occupation that could affect a wider spectrum. And we believe that there are certain tools that are available for us to do that."

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services stopped processing CW-1 applications last fiscal year after the cap was already filled last May that affected many foreign workers, who were forced to exit once their visas expired, and businesses to either close down or cut down with their operating hours.

The USCIS, last Tuesday, however, granted a 240-day extension to employees who will have expiring CW-1 visas. This means an employee whose CW-1 visa that was previously approved, had already expired can still work or stay for the next eight months while their papers are being processed again

"We're trying to figure out how we can make this work into the next year so that when we come to this time again [in 2017], we don't experience the same problems," the administration added.

To properly move into other types of U.S. working visas is still the main goal of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker nonimmigrant visa.

"There is an interest in properly transitioning into the U.S. immigration system so there are a lot of things that are available so that long-term CWs or long-term guest workers will have improved status or could do the EB visa process," said the administration.

USCIS district director David Gullick has suggested the EB3 visa is the visa type that is applicable for foreign workers in the CNMI. The EB3 visa type, however, will take more than five years but has less stringent requirements.

The administration is again suggesting to businesses to begin applying their long-time guest workers that could be eligible for EB3 visas. "You can begin the process now in order to get a different status that is more appropriate and more in line with the goals of U.S. Congress."

ing among other indigenous practices.

"We told them that if they're interested, if there is enough interest in the Marianas, then maybe the Senate might approve the bill or whatever so that I can come over here and teach," said Lizama.

There are upcoming presentations for those interested in the near future, but certain dates and venue locations are yet to be specified.

"I have one more presentation here in September. We are also going to Rota and Tinian. No confirmed date and venue for the next presentations as I have yet to coordinate with Dr. Bevaqua," said Lizama.

guest in radio shows at KKMP and Power 99.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard B. Seman, and Governor's special assistant for Women's Affairs Doris Reyes Drew also attended the proclamation signing that was also supported in part by Tan Holdings, the Community Guidance Center, and the Triathlon Association of the CNMI.

FRAUD

From Page 1

sufficiently establishes that the applicants were directly and proximately harmed by, and thus "victims" of Pangelinan's deception.

The Circuit judges determined that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona did not err in relying on circumstantial evidence to estimate the victim's actual losses.

The Circuit judges said the record supports, and they affirm, Judge Manglona's restitution order with respect to all but two victims who, as the U.S. government concedes and the record demonstrates, suffered actual losses of less than \$810 per victim.

Manglona found that six victims suffered losses exceeding the \$810 fee charged by Pangelinan. As to the remaining victims, Manglona estimated, based on interviews conducted of 22 victims and Pangelinan's own statements

to the immigration authorities, that each victim lost \$810.

The Circuit judges, however, found that the district court clearly erred in overestimating the losses of two victims.

Accordingly, the Circuit judges vacated Manglona's restitution order and remanded to the district court for the limited purpose of modifying the order to reflect the smaller losses suffered by the two victims whose losses were overestimated.

In May 2014, Manglona sentenced then-71-year-old Pangelinan to six months imprisonment plus one-year of supervised release after completing the prison term, and other conditions.

The judge waived imposing the fine based on defendant's inability to pay. Manglona later conducted a restitution hearing.

The indictment charged Pangelinan, Rosabella P. Cruz, and Helen N. Aparente with one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the U.S.

In addition, Pangelinan was charged with 17 counts of visa fraud, Cruz with 13 counts of visa fraud and one count of false statement, and Aparente with four counts of visa fraud.

Cruz pleaded guilty and was slapped with eight-month home confinement sentence. Aparente fled the CNMI.

In December 2013, Pangelinan pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the U.S. He was subsequently sentenced to six months imprisonment.

Pangelinan appealed to the Ninth Circuit, requesting to reverse the restitution order. He claimed that Judge Manglona erred in ordering him to pay restitution to 99 work visa applicants deemed to have been victims of his fraudulent acts.

In affirming in part and vacating in part, the Circuit judges said the record shows that, for a fee of \$810, Pangelinan filed work visa applications with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on

MASTER

From Page 2

"The tools they were working is what the Chamorro people and the Carolinian people used to make a living with."

He also pins his hopes on the enactment into law of a bill establishing a cultural center in the CNMI. House Bill 19-127, authored by Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), recently passed the House of Representatives and is currently in the Senate where it has been referred to a committee for review.

The planned cultural center will feature blacksmith-

SEPTEMBER

From Page 3

International, Ltd., CCA will have a Shine the Light event.

CCA is also collaborating with laboratories and health-care providers on Saipan in providing prostate screening for men. They are also scheduled to go to Kagman, Marianas, and Saipan Southern high schools for presentations on cancer prevention and will

Man who got 15-year jail term over 'ice' shipment appeals to 9th Circuit

Xi Huang, a man who was recently slapped in federal court with 188 months or 15 years and eight months of imprisonment over the shipment of 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice" then-



Manglona

worth \$850,000, is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Huang, through new counsel Stephen J. Nutting, has filed a notice of appeal before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Nutting said Huang is appealing to the Ninth Circuit from Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's sentencing order.

Huang wants the Ninth Circuit to reverse Manglona's order. No other details were indicated in the notice.

At the sentencing hearing last Aug. 12, Manglona

told Huang that his own brother, Biao, committed the same crime in the CNMI less than 10 years ago and was sentenced to 135 months imprisonment.

"That should be a big deterrence to you," Manglona said.

Huang was given credit for time served in prison. After serving the prison term, he will be placed on supervised release for three years.

After completing the prison term, Huang will be subjected to deportation proceedings. He was ordered to immediately pay a \$100 court assessment fee.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, counsel for the U.S. government, recommended 210 months imprisonment or 17.6 years.

Backe said Huang asserted a leadership role in this conspiracy as he was the one who coordinated the delivery of the "ice," paid for co-defendant, Shicheng Cai's travel and lodging, took Cai to get a fake CNMI driver's license in China, and was going to pay Cai \$7,000-\$8,000 for helping with the plan, among other things.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, then-counsel for Huang, recommended a 10-year prison sentence.

Huang's case is reportedly the second largest case involving the amount of drugs seized in the CNMI.

Last March, Huang pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with one count of

conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

A routine Customs inspection at the Port of Saipan of a 40-foot container from Guangzhou, China, resulted in the discovery of the 4.9 lbs of "ice" hidden in three plastic bags in one of the nine 5-gallon paint containers last Dec. 2.

Joint federal and local enforcers investigated the shipment, resulting in the arrest of Huang and two co-defendants. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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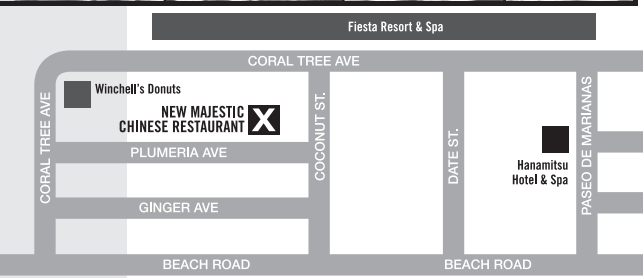
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Shipping company sued over shipment delay to Rota

A company on Rota and a businessman are suing Saipan Shipping Company Inc. in federal court for allegedly causing some of their goods to expire or had been damaged due to delay of their shipments to Rota in 2014 and 2015.

Kin & Rit Inc. and Francisco M. Atalig, who owns Sinapalo Safeway, are suing Saipan Shipping for 15 counts of breach of contract,

15 counts of negligence, one count of Consumer Protection Act and one count of breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

Kin & Rit and Atalig, through counsel Matthew T. Gregory, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold Saipan Shipping liable to pay them damages, attorney's fees, and court costs. They demanded a jury trial.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get comment yesterday from Saipan Shipping.

According to Gregory in the complaint filed in court on Tuesday, Atalig transferred goods to defendant for shipping to Rota on Jan. 9, 2014; Nov. 26, 2014; and March 23, 2015.

Gregory said the goods arrived on Rota 90 days after transfer from Atalig

and that upon inspection of goods it was determined that some were expired due to the extended shipping period or had been damaged during transport.

Gregory said Atalig also transferred goods to Saipan Shipping on March 24, 2015, but it arrived on Rota 180 days after receipt from Atalig and that upon inspection, it was found out that some were ex-

pired due to the extended shipping period or had been damaged during transport.

Gregory said K&R transferred goods to defendant for delivery to Rota on April 22, 2015, but the goods never arrived.

He said K&R and Atalig transferred goods for delivery to Rota on June 4, 2015, but they arrived on the island 90 days after transfer

and that some of the goods were expired due to the shipping delay or had been damaged during transport.

Gregory said Atalig transferred goods for delivery to Rota on June 4, 2015, but the goods arrived on the island 90 days after transfer and that some of the goods were expired due to the extended shipping period or had been damaged.

The lawyer said the unreasonable delay in shipping the containers was not due to bad weather, but rather it was to ensure a full barge to maximize Saipan Shipping's profits to the detriment of plaintiffs.

Gregory said defendant's breach of duty directly caused harm to plaintiffs in the loss of use of capital, sales, market share, and additional costs. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 17

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Beach Cleanup Brigade will again deviate from its regular first Saturday of the month schedule for September in support of the International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 17, 2016.

If you would like to volunteer your time to participate in the ICC, please contact the following:

■ Saipan/Tinian Coordinator: Richard Brooks, 664-8300/588-2926

■ Rota Coordinator: Autumn Poisson, 532-0466

This cleanup will be counted toward your participation on scheduled monthly brigades. This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

Last month's Coral Ocean Point Beach Cleanup was successful with eight volunteers participating. Thanks to students from Green Meadow School, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and other volunteers who hauled over 100 lbs of marine debris from the beach and properly disposed of.

The BECQ is looking forward to a repeat success on Sept. 17 during the ICC, so join BECQ's yearly island-wide cleanup and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, please contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. *(PR)*

300 volunteers participate in 'Day of Service' at AMP



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Families were part of over 300 community members who volunteered at the American Memorial Park's "Day of Service" park event last Aug. 27.

The staff of American Memorial Park would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in the Aug. 27 "Day of Service" park event.

On that day, over 300 community members came together to help clean up their national park and joined AMP in celebrating the 100th birthday of the National Park Service. Together volunteers cleared debris, eliminated invasive vines, beautified the memorials, and painted the parking lot and amphitheater.

Chief Ranger Jayson Tinney expressed the park's appreciation, "We were amazed by the show of support from volunteers throughout the community!

We would like to extend our special thanks to community partners from the office of Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, American Red Cross, and the CNMI Public School System AmeriCorps program for helping us to coordinate the 'Day of Service' activities. And also, a sincere thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who shared their Saturday with us. What a great way to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Na-

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students also came out in droves for the first "Day of Service" at the American Memorial Park that also celebrated the 100th birthday of the National Park Service.



Bonfire, storytelling to commemorate Cultural Heritage Month

The 2016 Cultural Heritage Month Committee is sponsoring a bonfire and storytelling event this Friday, Sept. 2, 2016, at the Carolinian Utt from 6pm to 9pm. Indigenous storytellers are cordially invited to share their stories with our youngsters and people.

Remember the time when our elders would sit us down in the evening when all their work was done and while we were getting ready to go to bed? Well, the 2016 Cultural Heritage Month Committee would like to rekindle those days, and invite our indig-

enous people, especially our elders, to come and tell us stories that they heard from their elders when they were growing up, or experiences they had in the past when they were taught by their elders the importance of gender roles, the story of their ancestors' migra-

tion from the Caroline Islands, Guam, or other places; legends, lineages, superstitions; what was grown, harvested, and processed in the past, etc. There are many ways one can tell their story. They can simply tell the story, chant it, non-verbally through dancing, etc.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information about the bonfire and most especially the storytelling event, please call Frances Sablan at 783-5512, chair Cinta Kaipat, Carolinian Affairs Office, or other Cultural Heritage Month Committee members. *(PR)*

TCGCC moves to a new rent-free location

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission welcomed members of the Tinian community to a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by an open house on Tuesday at their new location of what will soon be Tinian's Municipal Town Square.

In his congratulatory remarks, Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas noted that the ribbon cutting ceremony was "special" given the contentious relationship between the TCGCC and the Tinian Leadership during the first year of his administration which eventually led to a lawsuit to which he said has "failed to benefit the casino industry, the TCGCC, and the people."

He, however, said that he "wasn't there to place blame" but stressed the fact that the Tinian Leadership's sole objective is to "provide the TCGCC the support needed to ensure the growth and the development" of Tinian's gaming industry, which he points out as being "exactly what the leadership has done."

San Nicolas highlighted the numerous local laws that the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas leads the ribbon cutting of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission's new office at a site that would soon be called Tinian's Municipal Town Square.

Tinian Leadership has passed to continue funding for the TCGCC's payroll and operations in the absence of casino tax revenue.

The mayor also commended the new leadership of TCGCC and looks forward to working with them to find a solution to get Tinian's casino industry back on its feet. "As our industry was on the brink of collapse, our commission was able to license two casino applicants and assist the Tinian Leadership in the passage of an initiative amendment that provided funds to keep the commission open. This is what I call progress and I

commend the commission, delegation, and Municipal Council for working together to save our industry."

TCGCC executive director William M. Cing thanked the Tinian Leadership for prioritizing local funds and Tinian's share of CDA bond interest funds to finance the renovation of TCGCC's new office now located in the municipality's own building. "These are savings that we will be realizing in terms of our operations. This is forward thinking on the part of the leadership and I'm encouraged to hear that this move will also be happening for other municipal agencies." (PR)



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³ Free eStatements or paper statements.

TRIPLE J RESTAURANT GROUP

is now accepting applications for the following position:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOB DUTIES

- Plans, directs, and coordinates the operations of Triple J's restaurant operations in Saipan
- Formulates policies, establishes, and implements departmental policies, goals, and objectives
- Manages daily operations, and plans the use of materials and human resources
- Oversees daily activities directly related to making high-quality food products and providing customer service
- Directs and coordinates the organization's financial and budget activities

REQUIRED SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Must have management skills and experience to handle 100+ employees and oversee the operation of three or more prestigious restaurants simultaneously
- Must be able to interpret financial statements, perform marketing and advertising
- Must have professional cooking and bartending skills
- Must be skilled in food and beverage costing
- Required Education and Experience
- Bachelor's degree in business, food service, hospitality, or related field
- Minimum of ten (10) years of food service management experience required

LOCATION

Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas

COMPENSATION

This is an overtime exempt position. Salary will commensurate with education and work experience.

Interested applicants are requested to forward their resumes to the HR Director, Triple J Saipan, PO Box 500487, Saipan, MP 96950

Triple J is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. Women, Minorities, Veterans, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Mariana Stamp and Coin Club touts upcoming workshop at Rotary

Mariana Stamp and Coin Club president Steven R. Connor promoted his club's upcoming event during the weekly Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Done in partnership with the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, Connor said his club will be hosting a free workshop at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library this coming Saturday, Sept. 3, from 10am to 11:30am.

Connor told Rotarians that the workshop's goal is to teach geography to kids 5 years old and above with the use of monetary items,

mainly coins, from all around the world.

He added that the club is hosting meetings every first Saturday of the month with the goal of getting children interested in the hobby of collecting coins. The meeting on Saturday would specifically teach children about foreign coins.

"This Saturday, I am sponsoring along with American Red Cross and Marianas Visitors Authority, a children's workshop to be able to tie in some foreign coins that were donated into the Red Cross coin boxes, the boxes that you see in the Joeten grocery

stores, and some other places," he said.

Coins would be assigned to the youths while the youths attempt to pinpoint which part of the world the coin originated from.

"They put foreign coins in the boxes as well, so the banks don't take them. What do we do with them? What we decided is we came together and we have a map of the world, and we would invite children and teenagers who want to learn more about geography and what we're going to have is a bucket of coins and each person is going to get a coin

and they're going to have to look at a globe or go through the internet to try and determine which country this coin came from to glue it onto the map. This is a fun, free event that we're trying to increase educational awareness," said Connor.

Maps, education materials, and coins are provided by the club in partnership with the local chapter of the

American Red Cross.

Connor also stated that there would be more events such as this in the future and that the map would be a coin collection that will be displayed at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

"This would be a permanent coin collection at the library. We're going to have more events in the future to try and update this with new

countries that are represented. Please tell your friends and kids that want to have a fun time on Saturday. All are welcome," said an enthusiastic Connor.

For questions and more information about the Mariana Stamp and Coin Club, the workshop, and more, contact them by calling 235-7322 or the public library at 484-8971. **(Erwin Encinares)**



An enthusiastic Steven R. Connor, president of the Mariana Stamp and Coin Club, shares with the Rotary Club of Saipan what the outcome of the event the club would be hosting in the future would look like in a smaller scale Tuesday, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

September hotel specials at Hyatt Regency Saipan

As September introduces the autumn season, we are reminded that around the world it marks a season of harvest. A season, in which, everyone shares in the gratitude of life and indulges in generosity with family and friends.

Hyatt Regency Saipan invites you to share with us as we celebrate Chuseok—a Harvest Festival—for a three-day dinner buffet spectacular in honor of the Korean tradition.

Executive sous chef Tony from Hyatt Regency Guam will lead our culinary team in preparing a buffet highlighting some of his signature dishes—grilled LA galbi, galbijjim and tteak galbi. The buffet includes shikhye and free-flowing beer, wine and iced tea. The Chuseok dinner buffet is priced at \$55 per person and \$35 for Club at the Hyatt members. Reservations are highly recommended.

Teppanyaki

The Pacific Rim menu at Teppanyaki offers distinctive fla-

vors, incomparable aromas, and a truly exceptional experience. Throughout September, the Pacific Rim menu will feature a blend of locally and regionally inspired flavors carefully prepared right in front of diners' eyes. Be prepared for a fun culinary show. The Teppanyaki dinner begins at 6pm, exclusively priced at \$70 per person. Club at the Hyatt members are welcome, and reservations are highly recommended.

Giovanni's

Spaghetti alla Carbonara of Rome and featuring Pecorino, fresh eggs, and crispy pancetta—a trilogy of authentic artisan ingredients. The dinner is priced at \$18 per person. Club at the Hyatt members are welcome, and reservations are highly recommended.

An aperitif—to stimulate an appetite or stir a conversation amongst friends—enjoy the Blue Liberty—a beautiful and delicious tropical beverage available at all Hyatt Regency

Saipan bars. This beverage features vodka, Blue Curaçao, lemonade, ginger ale, and grenadine, priced at \$12.

i Saguá Spa

Find relaxation, tranquility and rejuvenation at i Saguá Spa with the Perfect Pumpkin experience. Pumpkin is also known for its ability to rejuvenate, hydrate, energize, and nourish skin and is the perfect ingredient for post-summer skincare. The i Saguá Spa utilizes the powerful pumpkin enzyme to digest dead surface cells, stimulate cellular turnover, and improve skin tone and texture. For more information, please call 323-5888 or visit isaguaspa.com.

Club Elán

With a well-equipped gym; a swimming pool; tennis courts; hot, medium and cold whirlpools; and, dry and steam saunas, Club Elán supports every guest's fitness goals. For more information, please call 234-1234 ext. 25. **(PR)**

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 1, 2000

CPA readies to roll back airport fees

The Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors will convene on Saturday to act on the request by CNMI signatory carriers to roll back existing passenger departure fees following projections by airline executives that passenger traffic will increase in the next two years. Citing a study carried out by CPA financial consultant Rex I. Palacios, acting Board Chair Roman Tude-la mentioned the possibility of a rollback in passenger departure fees from \$8 to \$5.79 but added that the reduced fees may only be implemented until the end of September.

\$3-M eyed for retro pay hike

The Senate will push for guar-

anteed funding of between \$2 million to \$3 million for payment of the long-overdue salary increase for government employees under the FY 2001 budget proposal, according to a key member. Sen. Edward U. Maratita, chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, expressed dismay that the House of Representatives failed to appropriate money to meet this obligation to about 2,000 former and current employees. The lower house last week approved the proposed spending package amounting to \$221.66 million which will oil operations of departments and agencies beginning this October 1 until September 30, 2001. While the House's proposal changed little from what Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has proposed, it included provisions to ensure payment of mounting financial obligations, such as

government utilities and the retroactive pay as mandated under PL 7-31.

September 1, 2004

Power plant explosion results in Saipan-wide power outage

An explosion rocked the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s main power plant in Lower Base yesterday morning, resulting in an islandwide power outage on Saipan. The Emergency Operations Center reported that the explosion occurred around 6:25am, as supertyphoon Songda moved close to the Northern Islands, creating storm condition on Saipan and Tinian. The CUC investigated the cause of the explosion, but details were unavailable as of press time, Castro said. The CUC restored power back to portions of the island. By noontime, Castro said power supply has been completely restored to pre-Songda levels.

MVA needs funds for tour site development

The Marianas Visitors Author-

ity has allocated \$200,000 from its own budget, but it needs a lot more to fund the renovation of tourist sites on the islands, MVA chair David Sablan said. According to Sablan, MVA is now preparing a damage assessment on various CNMI tourist destinations, based on a site inspection conducted on Tuesday. Gov. Juan N. Babauta led a group of government officials in visiting popular tourist sites such as the Old Japanese Jail and Sugar King monument in Garapan, and Last Command Post, Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, and the Grotto in Marpi. Those who joined the governor in the tour were Rep. Martin Ada, chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism; MVA board members; and representatives from the Division of Parks and Recreation. A similar tour is being scheduled for the southern part of Saipan, as well as Tinian and Rota.

September 1, 2005

Airport expansion

project breaks ground

The Saipan airport expansion and enclosure project will break ground at 10:30am today. The governor, lieutenant governor, and lawmakers have been invited to attend the ceremony. CPA has also asked CNMI government agencies and department heads, as well as members of airport and seaport organizations, to attend. Funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, the \$14.3-million project includes the expansion, enclosure, and air conditioning of the departure check-in lobby areas. The Commonwealth Ports Authority also embarks on the construction of huge basement-type room on the west side of the terminal building to house the Transportation Security Administration's screening operations and the explosive detection system as provided for by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In addition, a state-of-the-art in-line baggage conveyor system will be installed. The terminal improvement will be completed

within 20 months.

Free credit reports now open to NMI consumers

CNMI consumers may now request and obtain a free copy of their credit report, either online, over the phone, or via regular mail, pursuant to the Fair and Accurate Transaction Act. According to the Attorney General's Office, a federal law passed in December 2003 finally took effect yesterday in the CNMI, making this service available to the islands' consumers. The CNMI was in the last geographic section of the country to be covered by the rolling release of the free annual reports. The AGO urges all consumers to check their credit history on a regular basis to protect themselves from misreporting or potential instances of identity theft. The AGO also cautions consumers to be aware of confusing or misleading websites with similar-sounding names. For example, services like FreeCreditReport.com are not, in fact, free.

Blue and gold ribbons are seen on various spots throughout the island as a reminder that September is Childhood and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

And the Commonwealth Cancer Association is set to roll out several events the whole of September with the aim of providing better understanding of the causes and effects of childhood and prostate cancer. This is in partnership with Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility team.

In partnering with the community-based nonprofit organization, BSI-CSR is promoting awareness and prevention of childhood and prostate cancer through education, community projects, and various events and activities. This is part of its sustained commitment of giving back through community outreach.

Yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres proclaimed September Childhood and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

Also yesterday, BSI's CSR team has taken the lead in distributing blue and gold ribbons that were tied on various spots across the island. The tying of ribbons had been an ongoing tradition and practice to spread awareness for different causes and movements. This is touted to be a symbol of public unity.

And as one community it can showcase support to the fight against cancer, BSI-CSR executive director Geri Dela Cruz said.

"You can never give enough when it comes to fighting cancer. Cancer has definitely touched many, one way or another. Best Sunshine International is a strong supporter and continues to give resources to this movement," Dela Cruz said.

Leading up to yesterday's proclamation, BSI-CSR team has been meeting with members of the CCA and as-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. CSR coordinator Melina Salas ties a blue and yellow ribbon in celebration of Childhood and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month at the Susupe intersection.

Blue, gold ribbons usher in Childhood and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month



Best Sunshine's CSR team poses alongside CCA board secretary Maggie Camacho and CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta in support of yesterday's Childhood and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month proclamation signing at the Governor's Office.



Best Sunshine CSR staff at the intersection near Joeten Susupe.



Best Sunshine CSR representatives Fuji Suel and Doree Camacho work together in promoting Childhood and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

sisting them with planning of all the events scheduled for September.

One of the highlights is on Sept. 24 at 6am when BSI-CSR team will facilitate the first-ever 5K Walk-Run for A Cure. This is open to the community for people of all ages. This is aimed at inspiring the community to come together and showcase their support to the movement in the fight against cancer and those battling the disease.

Toward the latter part of September, Best Sunshine's CSR team will also be working alongside CCA in launching the first annual "Shine the Light on Childhood and Pros-

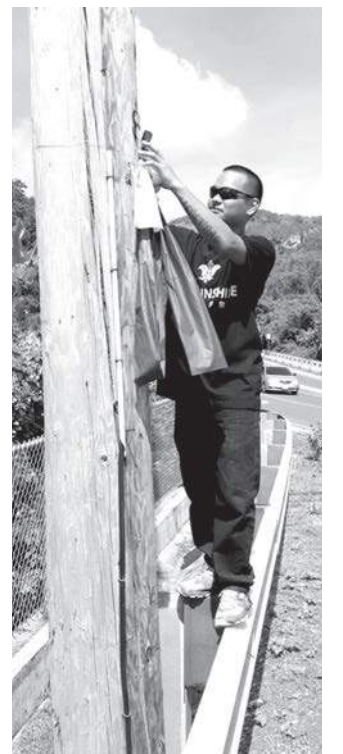


CSR representatives Maelyn Naputi and DJ Ayuyu tie a ribbon at the San Vicente three-way intersection.

tate Cancer Vigil."

This is to commemorate and honor survivors, those who are still battling the disease, and those who have lost the battle to childhood and prostate cancer.

"I'd like to thank Best Sunshine International's CSR team for their support with resources and manpower. They've done a great job and I hope we can continue our collaboration with other programs to come," said Juan L. Babauta, CCA program manager. (PR)



Best Sunshine CSR representative Marvin Palacios helps spread awareness for prostate cancer near Kagman Mobile gas station intersection.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Colombia shows the world how to wage peace

No one won the guerrilla war in Colombia. The conflict dragged on for decades, killing 220,000 people and destroying many more lives. That's Colombia's tragedy. Now there is hope, and a lesson: how two sides, accepting that neither would prevail in battle, can find peace by talking.

The deal to end hostilities between Colombia's government and the rebels of FARC is such a marvel of compromise and trust between bitter foes that bells should ring around the world, especially in those places where civil war rages: Yes, it's possible to resolve an entrenched, stalemated conflict through negotiation. In the Middle East as well? Well, someday there, too, we hope.

The Colombia settlement isn't unprecedented, which is part of its allure. There are similar cases, creating an instruction manual of sorts for potential success ending war. The Northern Ireland peace process worked, and holds. South Africa came together after apartheid.

In each of those cases, the end to fighting included a promise to heal wounds through a truth and reconciliation process, in which the participants acknowledge their roles in violence and other wrongdoing, providing victims with closure. Truth commissions set the record straight for the sake of history at the cost of pursuing legal charges against individuals. They worked in South Africa but didn't get off the ground in Northern Ireland.

A version of that process is a key component to Colombia's peace plan. Should the rebels and soldiers and others sit before their country to confess their crimes, it will be an extraordinarily emotional moment for Colombia. This was a bloody conflict dating to 1963 that involved killings, kidnappings, torture, extortion and other traumas. FARC, a leftist insurgency officially known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, sought to overthrow the government. Right wing paramilitaries, FARC drug trafficking and assassinations were big parts of the mix.

Representatives of FARC and the government met over the course of four years in Havana to try to find peace. The deal they came away with required ego-crushing sacrifices by both sides. FARC relinquished its aim to displace the political and economic system of Colombia. The government was forced to recognize that it could not vanquish FARC or even imprison its leaders.

Their agreement, announced Aug. 24, calls for FARC members to disarm. Guerrillas and government forces will appear before a tribunal, and if they hold back nothing in their testimony will avoid jail time, agreeing to an alternate form of restricted liberty such as community service. FARC members will get compensation and the group will morph into a political party with guaranteed participation in the legislature for several years. The government promises to invest more in rural areas.

This peace deal is controversial. The current president

See **COLOMBIA** on Next Page

THE ECONOMY IS STAGNANT... WAGES HAVE FLATLINED... DRUG COMPANIES EXPLOIT THE MEDICALLY FRAGILE FOR OBSCENE PROFITS... ISIS EXPANDS... CIVIL LIBERTIES CONTRACT... THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION GETS DUMBER BY THE SECOND...

KIRK

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email: kirk@theblade.com

...YET THIS IS WHAT TICKS YOU OFF,



The media's war of attrition against Trump's immigration policy

1. 'Amnesty' Don

One of the most recent gimmicks of the liberal media striving to paint Trump as a flip-flopper in terms of immigration is the nickname of Amnesty Don. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/08/29/joe-scarborough-has-a-newish-troll-y-nickname-for-donald-trump-amnestydon/#comments> on Monday, Aug. 29, MSNBC's Joe Scarborough, the Morning Joe "conservative" co-host, went with the flow of the mainstream liberal media and trolled the Republican presidential candidate for allegedly softening his position on deporting some illegal immigrants in a two-hour Fox News Hannity show exclusive, aired on Aug. 23 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cblBRiYQYk> and Aug. 24 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7-o9EmLUdg> in Austin, Texas: "Think about this, for 14 months, Amnesty Don, and a lot of people are calling him Amnesty Don. People are saying it, they're calling him Amnesty Don. Amnesty Don, that's what people are calling him... I'm not calling him that, Amnesty Don. Hashtag #AmnestyDon..." <http://www.thewrap.com/morning-joe-mocks-donald-trump-amnesty-don-tweets-loves-it/>

He claimed that the moniker—which, in fact, has appeared on Twitter at least as early as July 2015—"is the #1 trending topic on Twitter right now" and that "Twitter Loves It" (as if Twitter's users were all liberals).

In fact, Scarborough had his cheap shot payback for Trump calling his show "low rated" and "unwatchable" a week before. <http://www.businessinsider.com/donald-trump-joe-scarborough-mika-brzezinski-feud-2016-8>

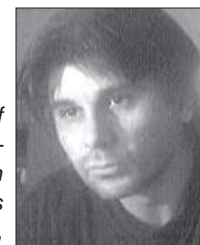
2. 'Dump Trump'

The relationship between Trump and Scarborough has been having constant ups and downs. With three months before the general elections, Scarborough published an op-ed for The Washington Post, <http://www.businessinsider.com/joe-scarborough-republican-party-dump-donald-trump-ticket-2016-8> urging the Republican Party to "dump Donald Trump" as their presidential candidate because of a Trump's suggestion that gun-rights advocates might try to stop Hillary Clinton from appoint-

By TIBERIU DIANU

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Tiberiu Dianu is a scholar and author of several books and articles in law and post-communist societies. He studied law, human rights, and criminal justice at the universities of Bucharest (Romania), Strasbourg (France), Oxford and Manchester (U.K.), American University (in Washington, D.C.), and University of Maryland at College Park (in Maryland). He currently lives in Washington, D.C. and works for various government and private agencies. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



ing Supreme Court justices (although Trump said later that he was referring to political, not violent, action).

Scarborough likes to present himself as a poster boy for conservatism, giving false credits to his ultra-leftist MSNBC working place in being considered a "news" network. In early 2009, the former Florida Republican representative was asked by his Florida party colleagues to run for the Senate seat vacated by Republican Mel Martinez, but he declined, saying that he can have more influence over public policy as the host of Morning Joe than as a U.S. Senator. http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20090209/COLUMNIST/902090340/2257/NEWS?Title=Question_Morning_Joe_or_Sen_Joe_1 and that was perfectly understandable, since his seven-figure 2007 job, as an MSNBC co-host for his show, had proven to be much more lucrative. <http://radaronline.com/exclusives/2012/08/highest-paid-anchors-matt-lauer-anderson-cooper-diane-sawyer/>

3. 'Mourning' Joe

Trump's media feuds have been constant during his campaign, and a way to rally voters on his side, particularly in the primary elections. <http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/293558-trump-media-feud-moves-from-megyn-kelly-to-morning-joe> With less than three months until the general elections, on November 8, some strategists suggest though that these fights with various media personalities and reporters might limit his efforts to expand his brand and reach out to new supporters.

This media's war of attrition against Trump's policy of immigration can only help the media ratings which, as Trump put it, are "low". And, since he has a more interesting and unpredictable personality, compared with Hillary Clinton's "boring" one,

See **POLICY** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Highlights of musings with Gov. Torres and Hawaii Senator Wakai

I was last on Saipan about five months ago and when I returned a couple of weeks ago, the first thing that I noticed is the tremendous amount of economic activity taking place. New restaurants and businesses have opened, a spanking new resort is being built right in the heart of Garapan, and although I am not a gambler one cannot help but notice that casino gambling is making quite an impact on the economy. And I'd be remiss if I didn't single out that the Beach Road Pathway lights project has begun in earnest and you can definitely tell the difference—a good amenity for visitors and locals alike. I also sensed that the outlook and attitude is definitely more upbeat judging by the confidence that was evident in general from conversations with the CNMI citizenry. Based on what one sees today, it is hard to imagine that Typhoon Soudelor ravaged Saipan a little over a year ago. Not only has Saipan recovered but you could almost adopt the moniker to describe the comeback as “Saipan Strong!”

I have also had the good fortune in Honolulu to meet and break bread on a couple of occasions with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres during his recent visits to Hawaii. Our discussions were quite stimulating, especially when we were joined by highly energetic Rep. Angel Demapan, who is oozing with ideas on how to make life better for all who call Saipan, Tinian, and Rota home. Gov. Torres, for his part, is cautiously optimistic about the positive economic results that have emanated from the Commonwealth of late. In contemplating the uses of the additional revenue that is filling the island coffers, I was happy to hear that the governor recognizes that the Commonwealth needs to plan and manage the Commonwealth's growth in a way that not only takes care of some of your pressing priority issues today but also looks to ensure a better future by striking the perfect balance between spending and saving. I have found from my experience in government that there is no substitute for thoughtful, collaborative planning coupled with substantive community input from all sectors. This provides the necessary information and data for public officials and policymakers to incorporate into their decision-making process. It's important to adopt the philosophy of a phrase first coined in Hawaii of a “preferred future” driven by prudent choices as opposed to a future that is thrust or forced upon you. Future generations will be the grateful beneficiaries of such a process and would be most appreciative that the current

cadre of leaders in the Commonwealth deemed it important to adopt such a style of leadership in managing growth in such a wise and considerate manner.

It was also great to be back on Saipan accompanied by Hawaii State Senator Glenn Wakai, no stranger to the Marianas region from his stint as a reporter and news anchor in Guam and Saipan in the early '90s. In fact, he was a popular face and voice of KMCV (now KSPN) News from 1993 to 1995 before returning to Hawaii where he became a fixture on the news scene there for seven years on KHON/FOX and KHNL/NBC.

He gave up his career in broadcast journalism in 2002 to enter the realm of public service because, in his words, he “wanted to pursue my passion in life.” He was a four-term member of the House of Representatives and in 2010 was elected to the Senate, where he now chairs the important Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology and is emerging as a substantive leader.

Given his experience and familiarity with CNMI, I invited him to return with me to his former domicile to address the 3rd class of Pacific Century Fellows, to share his thoughts and ideas on what he describes as “one of the most exciting places in the Pacific.” The 49-year-old Wakai is deeply committed to contributing to the betterment of Micronesia. He may be ensconced thousands of miles away in Honolulu in his capacity as an elected official or as the head of his own public relations company, High Impact Communications, but there is a part of him that is constantly on the lookout for ways to assist this region. For instance, he serves as the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Palau and continues to come up with projects and programs for the Palauan community to make a difference in Hawaii.

And most impressively, through Reach Out Pacific, or RE-PAC, a non-profit arm that he founded, he has gathered and coordinated the shipment of millions of dollars of medical, educational, and recreational equipment to Micronesia valued at over \$2.5 million over the past 10 years. He was extremely active in working with groups like the Northern Marianas Club of Hawaii, comprised of former CNMI residents residing in Hawaii, in coordinating Typhoon Soudelor relief efforts, even to the point of sending Christmas toys and books during the holiday season. As an aside, the Northern Marianas Club of Hawaii, led by Bev Fleming, is continuing to make positive inroads in the Hawaii community. They are actively involved and seeking community service projects that would help to dispel some of the negative impressions held by some of Micronesians in general.

The former KMCV anchorman had some interesting thoughts and ideas to convey to the Fellows. While recognizing the strength of Hawaii's tourism-based economy, he shared with

MARIANAS MATTERS

By MUFU HANNEMANN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mufu Hannemann is a Harvard-educated former mayor of Honolulu. He is the principal of MFH Enterprises and is the chair and founder of the Pacific Century Fellows program.



them his strategy and ideas on what Hawaii is doing to diversify its economy with information, technology, alternative energy, and aquaculture industries holding the most promise.

Wakai pointed out an intriguing parallel of Hawaii's proven technology of producing pure drinking water from the depths of the ocean floor off the Kona Coast on the Big Island of Hawaii and then branding it in the marketplace with a Hawaiian trade name. He opined that CNMI had the same potential of replicating Hawaii's model with the water coming from the depths of the Marianas Trench with the nomenclature of a Chamorro or Carolinian name that would brand the product in an enchanting and exotic way ala Fiji water.

He expressed a complete understanding of the frustration that many people have with the high cost of air transportation. He proffered a regional solution with the five chief executives of CNMI, Guam, Palau, FSM, and the Marshalls collaborating in issuing a request for proposals for air travel for their government employees with the notion of expanding it eventually to all the residents of these jurisdictions. Far from being a slam-dunk, this is certainly an idea whose time has come and worth evaluating because Wakai knows that the status quo is unacceptable.

Plans are underway for the Fellows' annual pilgrimage to Hawaii in November. In addition to having meetings on Oahu with government, education, military, and tourism officials and a special tour and visit of the Polynesian Cultural Center, the state's largest paid visitor attraction, a trek to the Big Island is being planned so that the Fellows can learn more about the energy, aquaculture, and science and astronomy initiatives taking place in Hawaii. Most importantly, the trip will give the Marianas Fellows opportunities to bond and network with their Hawaii counterparts. They are going to be special guests at the graduation festivities for the 15th class of PCF Hawaii. Their sojourn to Hawaii promises to be one of the indelible highlights of their year as Pacific Century Fellows. Tan Holdings executive Jerry Tan deserves a lot of credit for making it possible for the PCF program to operate in the Marianas region.

POLICY

From Page 10

these attacks are constant and totally unsurprising. It is interesting to follow the mainstream liberal media's tactics in presenting Clinton's personality and scandals as “boring” in order to take her out from the spotlight. Clinton has not held a formal press conference since December 4, 2015 and she is proverbially known for avoiding questions.

As for Scarborough, maybe a hashtag should be invented for him, too, especially after November 8, when, being confronted with a victorious Donald Trump (repeat after me, Joe: “President Trump!”), he should change his show's name to “Mourning” Joe.

SENATOR

From Page 10

sees “a new stage in history” for Colombia. A former president says the terrorists are getting away with war crimes. That disagreement matters because the deal must be approved in a referendum Oct. 2. If voters approve and the accord sticks, Colombia will get a better future. If it fails, war may reignite.

So much work went into this agreement, and so much is at stake, that optimism seems warranted. Mostly for Colombia's sake, but a little for the rest of the world. Maybe even the Middle East.



Former Honolulu mayor Mufu Hannemann and Hawaii State Senator Glenn Wakai pose with the current batch of Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter in this undated photo.

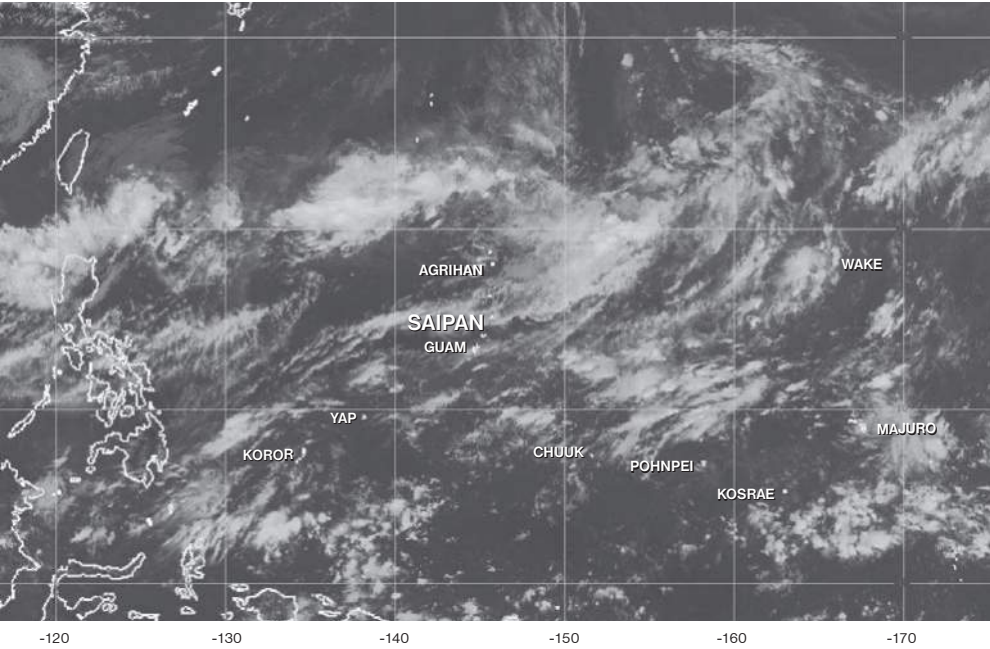
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Isolated afternoon thunderstorms for Guam.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:10 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2016

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A rather benign pattern is in place over the Marianas and looks to be staying around for a while. Partly cloudy skies with only isolated showers are expected through the week. Guam will likely see more island thunderstorms today and Thursday with light and variable winds and adequate moisture availability. Seas have subsided to around 5 feet this morning and are expected to continue a slow decrease, falling to between 3 and 4 feet by Thursday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲		
Guam and Rota	Morning clouds	79 / 87 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	78 / 88 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	76 / 89 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	78 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	75 / 88 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	80 / 87 °F
Majuro	Partly sunny	83 / 87 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲		
Auckland	Sunny	46 / 59 °F
Beijing	Afternoon clouds	65 / 80 °F
Hong Kong	Partly sunny	83 / 90 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	74 / 84 °F
London	Partly cloudy	54 / 75 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	65 / 84 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy	81 / 89 °F
Melbourne	Afternoon clouds	50 / 60 °F
Miami	High level clouds	80 / 89 °F
New York	Partly cloudy	72 / 83 °F
Osaka	Morning clouds	68 / 90 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	56 / 80 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	77 / 86 °F
Rome	Morning clouds	65 / 87 °F
Salem	Light showers	56 / 67 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	59 / 68 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	65 / 84 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	72 / 87 °F
Washington, DC	Partly cloudy	69 / 83 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
1:38 AM	LOW TIDE	0.8 Feet
6:58 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.89 Feet
1:54 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.03 Feet
8:17 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.88 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	5:41 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	7:05 PM
Saturday	7:21 AM	7:44 PM
Sunday	8:09 AM	8:23 PM
Monday	8:57 AM	9:02 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2016

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	OZ6053	10:35am	4:05pm	4, 7
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6063	5:15pm	8:35pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM	PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4	UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: (United) Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	SAIPAN TO ROTA			DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			

Dry Dock 'Big Blue' removed from Naval Base Guam

APRA HARBOR, Guam—After an extensive joint planning effort to relocate the large floating auxiliary dry dock “Ex-MACHINIST” (AFDB-8), known locally as “Big Blue,” from outer Apra Harbor at U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), the M/V *Zhen Hua* 28, a semi-submersible

heavy lift vessel, carried Big Blue out of the harbor on its shoulders, Aug. 30.

Weather concerns began early in the planning stages, as Tropical Storms 08W and 10W sent monsoon conditions to Guam with winds gusting in excess of 20 knots recently prior to Big Blue’s removal.

A multitude of vessels gathered at inner and outer Apra Harbor to ensure Big Blue was safely loaded and bound to *Zhen Hua* for its oceanic transit. Careful planning by NBG staff, the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and Guam Shipyard staff was critical to a successful execution. Preparations included cutting the floating dry dock into two big pieces—an evolution that took several days. The assembly of maritime assets included patrol boats from NBG Security Department and the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Assateague* (WPB-1337) and three civilian tugboats.

Big Blue, an 883-foot-long, 174-foot-wide dry dock vessel with a submerged depth of 38 feet, is owned by Guam Industrial Services, Inc. (doing business as Guam Shipyard), and has been located in Apra Harbor since 1992. The floating dry dock was nicknamed “Big Blue,” by locals because of its bright blue paint. Originally constructed with steel and no independent means of propulsion in Bremerhaven, Germany as “the Machinist” in 1980, Big Blue was later deactivated in 1992 in conjunction with the military withdrawal from the Philippines in the early 1990s. It was then towed for use in

Guam by the U.S. Navy. The dry dock remained in a “use as needed” basis until 1997 when it was struck from the Naval Register and purchased by Guam Industrial Services in October 2002 for use by Guam Shipyard.

Big Blue remained in Apra Harbor over the years for use by the Navy. Guam Shipyard started its upgrade of the dry dock to 35,000 long tons and during one heavy storm in January 2011, Big Blue sank in the harbor. Due to the extensive repairs required—which posed threats to the port of Apra Harbor—it was decided to finalize the upgrade including dry-docking of Machinist

in another shipyard.

The heavy lift motor vessel *Zhen Hua* 28 out of Hong Kong is 761 feet long, with a submerged draft of 67 feet and a capacity of a 40,000 gross tonnage.

Big Blue’s removal marks the second (and last) dry dock to be removed in 2016 from Apra Harbor. The medium floating dry dock Richland was hauled out of the harbor in January. Much like Richland, Big Blue’s removal would not have been possible without the extensive planning efforts of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, Guam Shipyard, and *Zhen Hua* 28. **(PR)**

Supporting maritime governance, safety management in Solomons

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—The Pacific Island Domestic Ship Safety Programme aimed at improving and maintaining safety management on board domestic ships is currently underway in Honiara, Solomon Islands with assistance from the Pacific Community.

Domestic shipping is fundamental for inter-island connectivity and is the main means of access to and from many outer islands, supporting the socio-economic needs of communities.

In Solomon Islands, safe, reliable and clean domestic shipping provides service to over 600,000 people spread across a sea area of 1.5 million square kilometers.

As part of the PIDSS initiative, SPC is coordinating a National Workshop on Maritime Governance in collaboration with the Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Administration (SIMSA).

The high-level workshop, which takes place today, brings together relevant government ministries, private domestic ship operators and other stakeholders to discuss a number of priority areas including challenges and opportunities in the domestic shipping industry, nurturing a safe shipping culture in Solomon Islands, the PIDSS Programme, as well as the role of SIMSA, activities undertaken by the Solomon Islands Maritime Transport Association (SIMTA), and the Solomon Islands Women In Maritime Association.

“Holding the high-level SPC regional workshop is the best opportunity SIMSA has to showcase its recent development and activities and get the message across concerning the role, functions and activities of SIMSA as the Maritime Administration of Solomon Islands; at national, regional and international levels relative to the mandatory obligations of a Member State of the International Maritime Organization, as well as being the agency for the safety, security and reliabil-

ity of domestic shipping,” the Director of SIMSA, Tim Harris, said.

The PIDSS Programme was implemented in 2010 as a pilot project in Kiribati and Tonga, and has been extended to six more countries.

The objective of the PIDSS is to promote the implementation of a Safety Management System to ensure safety at sea and protection of the environment.

Solomon Islands has over 200 registered domestic ships providing domestic services between the islands and success of the PIDSS initiative requires the input and support of all key stakeholders including SIMSA, mariners, training providers and the domestic shipping industry itself.

The strong progress of some domestic shipping companies towards implementing Safe Operational Plans after it was introduced to Solomon Islands in 2014, paves the way for what the Chair of SIMTA, Patteson Arish Mane, concluded in the last December Issue of the Pacific Maritime Watch: “I look forward to the day when all domestic vessels in Solomon Islands are compliant to a Safe Operational Plan”.

“The benefit from an efficient management of safety on board domestic ships and adequate Safe Operational Plans is not only safety at sea but it also covers other issues affecting domestic shipping such as the protection of the environment, the reliability of services for clients, the affordability for users and the profitability for ship owners,” SPC’s Deputy Director Transport, Thierry Nervale, said.

“SPC is strongly supporting SIMSA and domestic ship owners’ approach towards more sustainable domestic shipping in Solomon Islands,” he added.

Following the workshop, SPC will continue implementing PIDSS activities including Safety Management System auditing until Sept. 3. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

M/V *Zhen Hua* 28 carries “Big Blue” out of the Apra Harbor last Aug. 30.

Central Pacific maritime lifeline in focus

SUVA, Fiji—The reliability and affordability of vital shipping services for Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Tuvalu will be in focus at a forum that begins today in Suva, Fiji, hosted by the Pacific Community.

Among the issues to be considered by Ministers for Transport and other representatives of each government, shipping companies and SPC maritime specialists are improving national coordination and public-private partnerships to facilitate trade and the conduct of energy audits to improve maritime port efficiency.

Boosting engagement with the private sector to further improve shipping connectivity in the Central Pacific sub-region will also

be discussed at the three-day Central Pacific Shipping Commission (CPSC) Annual General Meeting.

Created in January 2014, the CPSC is an initiative born out of a call by leaders of Pacific small island states to have reliable, affordable and sustainable shipping.

SPC provides secretariat services for the commission along with technical advice to its four member countries on a range of maritime-related issues linked to sustainable development.

The underpinning issues CPSC continues to address, and which will be highlighted at the meeting, are how the Central Pacific sub-region can overcome challenges faced in im-

proving affordability, reliability and sustainability of international maritime transport services.

Preliminary studies by SPC suggest that the CPSC model has contributed to an increased frequency of ships, with two visits per month for each CPSC country member over the past 18 months; better affordability of shipping through stabilized freight rates; and improved sustainability of shipping services by guaranteeing countries short-to-medium term certainty of service provision.

“The annual general meeting will be an opportunity to meet with partners, who are the shippers given the Entry Assurance Certificate to service the commission region,

and to review performance of these shippers as well as to dialogue on ways to address ongoing challenges and sustaining shipping services,” the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Republic of Marshall Islands, Phil Philippo, said at the meeting.

SPC has provided in-country technical assistance to establish national shipping councils in order to improve national coordination and adopt a data collection system which will serve as an improvement in supply chain efficiency, leading to competitive freight rates in line with other Pacific sub-regions.

The meeting concludes on Sept. 1. **(PR)**



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Magic Chef 13 Piece Cutlery Set

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\$29⁹⁵

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\$26⁹⁵

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\$42⁹⁵

Sucasa 36"x80" Security Door Black

\$149⁹⁵

Essential Home Grayson 5 Drawer Dresser

\$149⁹⁵

Essential Home 2 Door Cabinet

\$124⁹⁵

Northwest Territory Twin Size Air Bed with Pump

\$25⁹⁵

Essential Home 20x30 Chindi Rug

\$29⁹⁵

Essential Home 2 Piece Marissa Rug

\$15⁹⁵

Rubbermaid Hip Hugger 2.1 Bushel Laundry Basket

\$16⁹⁵

Essential Home 3 Drawer Cart

\$24⁹⁵

All Purpose Potting Soil 20 Quart

\$3⁹⁵

Sun Dolphin 8' Ocean Kayak

\$259⁹⁵

Upland Dragonfly 16" Girls Bicycle

\$81⁹⁵

Tent 200X200X135cm Sleeps 4

\$149⁹⁵

HDX HEAVY DUTY 5 TIER SHELF

\$79⁹⁵

STOR 4 TIER WIRE SHELVE

\$49⁹⁵

GROVE PARK 6 PLAY SWING SET

\$179⁹⁵

Z-SHADE 8FTX8FT INSTANT CANOPY

\$65⁹⁵

ACDELCO 2 TON TROLLY JACK

\$39⁹⁵

SUNCAST 100 FEET CAPACITY HOSE HIDEAWAY

\$36⁹⁵

HEFTY 13.3 GALLON TOUCH LID TRASH CAN

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GLACIER BAY DUAL FLUSH HIGH EFFICIENCY TOILET

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Business

Intoxicated in the air: drunk pilots make news but are rare

NEW YORK (AP)—Every few months, a pilot somewhere in the world is stopped before a jet takes off because of suspicion of drunkenness. It makes headlines and gives nervous travelers another reason to avoid flying.

Despite their notoriety, such cases are extremely rare.

Each day, there are 90,000 flights around the world, carrying more than 8 million people. And the overwhelming majority of pilots in those cockpits are sober.

Pilots take being fit to fly seriously and act accordingly," says former US Airways pilot John M. Cox, now CEO of the consulting firm Safety Operating Systems. "Pilots know they are one of the most carefully monitored professions and therefore, are very conservative."

There are occasional lapses.

The latest incident occurred Saturday morning when two United Airlines pilots were pulled from their flight—and arrested—as they prepared to fly 141 passengers from Scotland to the United States.

But don't think this will end the pilots' careers.

United has removed both men from flying duties—for now.

Many pilots caught drinking on the job have later returned to the skies.

The United pilots, Paul Brady Grebenc, 35, and Carlos Roberto Licona, 45, were released on bail Monday. Grebenc, from Columbus, Mississippi, and Licona, from Humble, Texas, made no plea and are free until a later court hearing.

The Federal Aviation Administration has a process that allows recovering alcoholics back in the cockpit if they pass a medical evaluation and stay

clean during monitoring for the next five years. Since the union-backed program started in the 1970s, about 5,300 pilots—more than 100 a year—have gone through rehab and regained their licenses, according to a program official.

"Pilots aren't any different than other people in the respect of having occasions they probably regret," says airline analyst Robert Mann.

U.S. rules prohibit pilots from flying if they have a blood-alcohol content of .04 percent or higher. (The United Kingdom has a stricter limit of .02 percent.) By comparison, the legal threshold to drive a car in the U.S. is twice that level at 0.08 percent.

Pilots must also wait several hours after having a drink to fly. The FAA has a saying for this: "Eight hours from bottle to throttle."

ditional taxes to a government that says we don't owe them any more than we've already paid," Apple CEO Tim Cook complained in a statement.

The White House also blasted the ruling as unfair and disruptive to its own efforts at tax reform. But the decision was welcomed by groups that have long criticized the practices used by Apple and other large companies to legally reduce their tax obligations.

The ruling was the latest in a series of aggressive moves by European officials to hold U.S. businesses, particularly big tech companies, accountable under the EU's rules on taxation, competition and privacy.

"They're going after Apple, which means a big name and big dollars," said Brad Bad-

ertscher, a corporate tax expert at the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. "It's a big shot across the pond to U.S. companies."

California-based Apple reported over \$53 billion in profit in its last fiscal year on worldwide sales of more than \$233 billion. It says it paid \$13 billion in corporate income taxes globally.

But EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said Ireland granted such lavish tax breaks to Apple that the company's effective corporate tax rate on its European profits dropped from 1 percent in 2003 to a mere 0.005 percent in 2014.

While Apple disputed her figures, Vestager argued that Ireland violated EU rules by essentially giving subsidies to selected companies.

California farmworkers on edge over historic overtime bill

MENDOTA, Calif. (AP)—Many California farmworkers who make up the backbone of the nation's No. 1 agricultural state on Tuesday were praising historic legislation that brings them closer to receiving the same overtime pay as the rest of the state's workers who are paid by the hour.

If signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown, a new overtime bill would put California at the forefront nationally of farm labor pay and mark a victory in the fight to improve farmworkers rights in the decades old movement launched by Cesar Chavez, the legendary co-founder of the National Farm Workers Association

who fought for higher farm worker pay.

Brown, a Democrat, has not said whether he will sign the law that would be the first of its kind for the United States.

Florentino Reyes, 48, has been picking tomatoes and working a wide variety of crops in California's fertile Central Valley for more than two decades and says he could make another \$60 weekly. That would give him more purchasing power to buy better food and clothes for his wife and three children and ease his stress over paying down bills.

"For me, it's discrimination," said Reyes, finishing up a day harvesting green toma-

atoes near the town of Mendota.

But other farmworkers are nervous about California farmers' claims that the higher overtime pay could hurt them economically and outprice California products from the marketplace in favor of crops grown in other states and countries.

Gonzalo Najera, who drives a tractor on Salinas Valley's lettuce, carrots and broccoli fields, said some farmers are saying the extra overtime payments could drive them out of the state, but he doesn't buy the argument.

"The growers can't leave," Najera said. "They can't take their dirt with them."

Nation

BEFORE IMMIGRATION SPEECH: Trump to make quick trip to Mexico

EVERETT, Wash. (AP)—

In a surprise move, Donald Trump will travel to Mexico on Wednesday to meet with President Enrique Pena Nieto, just hours before the Republican delivers a highly anticipated speech on immigration.

Trump took to Twitter on Tuesday night to say he looks "very much forward" to meeting with the Mexican leader. Pena Nieto's office confirmed the meeting with its own tweet, saying the two men would meet privately.

The unexpected trip comes as Trump seeks to clarify his stand on illegal immigration, a contentious issue that has been a centerpiece of his Republican presidential campaign. Trump has long called for deporting people currently living in the U.S. illegally and building a wall along the country's border with Mexico.



In this Aug. 27, 2016 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks in Des Moines, Iowa.

But in meetings recently with Hispanic supporters, Trump has suggested he could be open to changing the hardline approach he outlined during the GOP primaries. After one such roundtable this month, his new campaign manager said Trump's stance on deportations was "to be determined."

In the days since, Trump

and his staff have broadcast varied and conflicting messages, with Trump himself saying one day he might be open to "softening" his stance, and days later saying he might, in fact, be "hardening."

Pena Nieto has been sharply critical of Trump's original immigration policy, particularly the Republican's

911 calls: 'Gunshots going like crazy' in Pulse nightclub

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Friends and relatives of patrons trapped in a gay Florida nightclub where a mass shooting left 49 people dead asked police dispatchers why it was taking so long for their loved ones to be rescued.

Audio recordings of 911 calls released Tuesday by the Orange County Sheriff's Office show mounting frustration by friends and family members who were texting, calling and video-chatting with trapped patrons of the Pulse nightclub where Omar Mateen opened fire in June.

"My son was shot in the club. ... He is still in the bath-

room. He is bleeding, and he got shot and nobody is going in for him," said one caller to 911, almost three hours after the shooting began. "Nobody is doing anything for him."

The dispatcher told him that a SWAT team was about to go inside the nightclub.

More than an hour and a half after the shooting started, another man called dispatchers a second time, clearly frustrated that his ex-girlfriend hadn't been rescued from a bathroom where she was trapped with almost 20 others, including two dead people.

"People are shot and dead.

... Are you guys sending anybody there?" the man said. "They are all scared to death, and they all think they are going to die."

The caller then said that his ex-girlfriend was texting that the gunman was there. The dispatcher told him to text back, asking if his ex-girlfriend meant in the bathroom or the club in general.

"She's not answering," he said. He waited for more than five minutes on the line with the dispatcher, getting no response from his ex-girlfriend, before the dispatcher told him she needed to free up the line.



ACROSS THE NATION

Senators want info on driver of bus that crashed, killing 2

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Louisiana's U.S. senators and the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman are asking the Department of Homeland Security for information about the man identified as the driver of a bus that hit a firetruck and other vehicles in Louisiana, killing two people and injuring three dozen. State police have said Denis Yasmir Amaya Rodriguez, 37, a Honduran immigrant, was driving the bus. He entered the U.S. illegally and has no U.S. driver's license, let alone a commercial license to drive a bus, Trooper Melissa Matey has

said. She said he also was ticketed Aug. 5 for driving without a license. "Sadly, this is yet another story in a long line of stories where innocent American citizens have been killed or injured by an illegal alien who has complete disregard for the laws of this nation," Republican Sens. Charles Grassley of Iowa and David Vitter and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana wrote Tuesday to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson.

City, county leaders hold special meeting after girl's death

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—City and county officials have called a special meeting to address what

led to the brutal slaying of a 10-year-old Albuquerque girl in the hopes of identifying opportunities for the community to better protect children. Officials say they will seek funding for more social workers, and exploring solutions for drug treatment, mental health services and child abuse prevention. Bernalillo County Commissioner Debbie O'Malley and Albuquerque City Councilor Klarissa Pena organized the meeting. It comes nearly a week after police say they found the dismembered body of Victoria Martens in her mother's apartment on Aug. 24—the day the girl's godmother said she and relatives planned to celebrate the girl's 10th birthday.

Asia

S. Korea says top North Korean official executed

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has executed a vice premier and banished two other top officials to rural areas for re-education, South Korean officials said Wednesday.

If confirmed, they would be the latest in a series of killings, purges and dismissals carried out since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un took power in late 2011.

North Korea is a closed, authoritarian country with a state-controlled press that often makes it difficult for outsiders, and even North Korean citizens, to know what's happening in the government.

Rival South Korea, which

runs several intelligence organizations mainly tasked with spying on North Korea, has a mixed record on reporting developments across the border. In May, a former North Korean military chief, who Seoul said had been executed, was found to be alive and holding several new senior-level posts.

Jeong Joon Hee, a spokesman for Seoul's Unification Ministry, told reporters Wednesday that Kim Yong Jin, a vice premier on education affairs in North Korea's cabinet, had been executed. Jeong gave no further details, including why and when his ministry believes he was executed and how it obtained the

information.

Little is known about Kim Yong Jin, who was last mentioned by North Korea's state news agency on June 15, when it reported he attended an event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of North Korea's taekwondo federation.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said Kim was executed by firing squad in July for unspecified anti-revolutionary and factional acts. Yonhap, citing an unidentified Seoul official, said Kim first faced an investigation because of the way he was seated during a June meeting attended by Kim Jong Un.

At least 9 dead as typhoon hits northern Japan

TOKYO (AP)—At least nine elderly people were killed when their nursing home was flooded in northern Japan after Typhoon Lionrock dumped heavy rains on the area.

The bodies of all nine residents were found at a nursing home in the town of Iwaizumi in Iwate prefecture, when police were checking another facility in the flooded neighborhood, said Takehiro Hayashijiri, an official at a prefectural disaster management division.

Hayashijiri said identity of the bodies or other details, including whereabouts of their caretakers,

were not known. NHK said the nursing home was for the residents with dementia.

Japan's NHK national broadcaster said authorities have found two more bodies in another town in Iwate.

Its footage showed the nursing home partially buried in mud, surrounded by debris apparently washed down from the mountains. A car by the home was turned upside down.

"We're making a government-wide effort to assess the extent of damage," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

The government sent Self-

Defense Forces to help in the rescue and cleanup of the damage caused by the typhoon.

At least two rivers swollen by the typhoon broke through their banks, flooding areas in northern Japan.

The embankments gave way before dawn on Wednesday on the northern island of Hokkaido, said NHK, quoting Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Tourism.

Authorities in the town of Minami-furano are reporting many people trapped in houses and shelters by flooding from the Sorachi river, NHK said.

and plundered the economy.

Duterte rejects emergency power vs extremists

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president has rejected proposals for him to declare a state of emergency on a violent southern island to be able to more rapidly crush Abu Sayyaf extremists, who killed 15 soldiers this week in the largest single-day combat loss of his government. President Rodrigo Duterte also announced Wednesday that government troops and police would not enforce a warrant of arrest for prominent Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari, who leads one of two large Islamic insurgent groups in the country's south, so they could talk. Duterte says Misuari preferred to meet him in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and replied during a phone call Tuesday that he was ready to meet him anywhere. While Duterte has pursued talks with two Muslim groups, he has

ordered troops to destroy the Abu Sayyaf.

Fatal shooting suspect in armed standoff in western Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A suspect in a fatal shooting in western Japan has holed up at an apartment in an armed standoff after he fired at a police car and escaped. Wakayama police said Wednesday that Yasuhide Mizobata is wanted as a prime suspect in the shooting Monday at a small construction company, where he allegedly killed one employee and injured three others. Mizobata had been at large since Tuesday night when police spotted him near the murder site and almost caught him. He fired four shots at the police car, shattering its windows and escaped. Nobody was injured in the shooting. Mizobata was seen carrying a handgun in each hand while pacing on an apartment balcony. He isn't believed to be holding any hostage. Gun crimes are rare in Japan.

World

Vote on whether to remove president nears in Brazil's

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—Senators debated the fate of Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff into the wee hours of Wednesday, then planned a short break before casting votes that will decide whether to remove her permanently as leader of Latin America's most populous country.

Many of the 81 senators signed up to speak Tuesday afternoon on the fifth day of her impeachment trial, prompting Chief Justice Ricardo Lewandowski to announce that they would go as long as it took for everyone to be heard. He said the trial would resume late Wednesday morning for the final vote on removing her.

Passionate closing arguments by Rousseff's accusers and speeches by her allies



Brazil's suspended President Dilma Rousseff speaks at her own impeachment trial, in Brasilia, Brazil, Monday, Aug. 29, 2016.

appeared to be doing little to tip the balance in her favor on the eve of the impeachment decision. Suspended by the Senate in May, Rousseff faces permanent removal for breaking fiscal responsibility laws in her managing of the

federal budget.

Most of the senators making statements attacked Rousseff, blaming her for Brazil falling into its deepest recession in decades and saying she ignored signs of a slowdown.

Clashes subside in Syria between Turkish, Kurdish forces

BEIRUT (AP)—Clashes between Turkey's military and Kurdish-backed Syrian forces subsided Tuesday evening after days of fighting between the two had frustrated efforts by a U.S.-led coalition to drive the Islamic State group from northern Syria.

Western officials had expressed alarm that the fighting between the two sides, both backed by the U.S. in Syria's 5-year-old civil war, has diverted their attention from the fight against the extremist group.

In a speech Tuesday, French President Francois Hollande criticized Turkey for targeting Kurdish and Kurdish-backed fighters in Syria, while a top U.S.

general ordered the sides to stop fighting one another and focus instead on the Islamic State.

Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of the U.S. Central Command, told Pentagon reporters that the U.S. was striving to separate the parties.

The Kurdish-backed Jarabulus Military Council said in a statement it had agreed to a cease-fire with the Turkish military in a disputed area in north central Syria after lengthy consultations with the coalition.

The Pentagon denied reports it was monitoring a cease-fire but said Turkish forces had moved to the west, while Kurdish forces had moved east of the Euphrates River, per the insis-

tence of Turkish and U.S. authorities.

"We welcome the calm between the Turkish military and other counter-ISIL forces in Syria," Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said. "We encourage these moves as a way to prevent further hostilities and loss of life between all counter-ISIL forces operating in the area."

Cook said the coalition is establishing communication channels "for de-conflicting operations and maneuvers in this crowded battlespace."

The Britain-based Syrian Observer for Human Rights monitoring group, which relies on contacts inside Syria, said a tense calm had prevailed in the area Tuesday evening.

Islamic State group says spokesman killed in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—The Islamic State group's spokesman and chief strategist, who laid out the blueprint for the extremist group's attacks against the West, has been killed while overseeing operations in northern Syria, the group announced Tuesday.

The IS-run Amaq news agency said Abu Mohammed al-Adnani was "martyred while surveying the operations to repel the military campaigns in Aleppo," and vowed to avenge his death. It did not provide any further details on when or how he died.

If confirmed, it would be a major blow to the extrem-

ist group, which has been on the retreat in Syria and Iraq, where the borders of its self-declared Islamic caliphate have been steadily eroded in recent months.

Al-Adnani, whose real name is Taha Sobhi Falaha, persistently called for attacks against the West, which paid off in bloody notoriety with the Nov. 13 coordinated attacks in Paris that hit a concert hall, a stadium and restaurants and bars, leaving 130 people dead and hundreds wounded.

Al-Adnani is a Syrian who was born in the northern province of Idlib and is believed to be in his late 30s. He crossed the border

and joined al-Qaida in Iraq, a precursor to IS, after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

In late June 2014, he formally declared the establishment of a caliphate, or Islamic state, stretching across parts of Syria and Iraq, under the leadership of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and demanded allegiance from Muslims worldwide.

A powerful orator, he went on to become the voice of IS. He released numerous, lengthy audio files online in which he delivered fiery sermons urging followers to kill civilians in nations that supported the U.S.-led coalition against the group.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH court hears petitions vs hero's burial for Marcos

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Human rights victims of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos' regime have filed a last-ditch legal challenge to prevent his burial at the Heroes' Cemetery. Marcos' burial was ordered by President Rodrigo Duterte, but it remains an emotional issue for Filipinos who ousted Marcos in a 1986 "people power" revolt. The petitioners urged the Supreme Court on Wednesday to prevent "a national tragedy" by prohibiting a burial that would glorify a dictator, distort history and aggravate the injustices suffered by human rights victims. Duterte has remained firm in his stance to allow the burial despite growing opposition, saying there is no legal impediment to honor Marcos. Rep. Edcel Lagman, a petitioner, says Marcos padlocked Congress, closed media outlets, wantonly violated people's rights

Focus

By SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP AIRLINES WRITER

LINTHICUM, Md. (AP)—Victor DaRosa stands under a scorching afternoon sun, loading bags onto a jet heading to Detroit.

As each suitcase climbs up the conveyor belt into the plane, a small computer verifies that it actually belongs on that flight. If one bag didn't, a red light would flash and the belt would stop until somebody acknowledges the mistake and reroutes the luggage.

This is the future of baggage handling. Delta Air Lines is investing \$50 million to soothe one of air travel's biggest headaches: lost and delayed luggage.

Delta carried nearly 120 million checked suitcases last year, collecting \$25 in fees, each way, for most domestic bags. For that price, fliers expect their suitcase to be waiting on the carousel when they arrive. Delta already has one of the airline industry's best luggage handling records—just 1 out of every 500 bags failed to arrive on time—but hopes that by deploying a RFID, or radio-frequency identification, tracking system globally it can improve further.

If the system works, other airlines are likely to follow. Ultimately the bag tag might be replaced with permanent RFID readers in our suitcases, reducing the chances fliers in the future will start a vacation missing their swimsuit.

"It's a very smart move," says Henry Harteveldt, founder of travel consultancy Atmosphere Research Group. "It's one that will help increase customer confidence that their bags will arrive with them."

RFID wirelessly identifies tags attached to items. The technology is widely used at warehouses to track goods but Delta's rollout is the first global use for passenger bags.

To better understand the technology, think about your local supermarket. If every grocery item had an RFID tag, cashiers wouldn't have to scan each product at checkout. Instead, the groceries would pass by a scanner and be instantly registered. Shoppers could even leave everything in their cart, having it all tallied at once.

The same principles apply to checked luggage.

Most airlines today use barcodes on tags to identify each suitcase—each tag has its own unique 10-digit number—and make sure it is loaded onto the right plane. But reading each barcode with a handheld scanner is time consuming. Often, a bag or two aren't scanned or error messages are missed by workers focused on getting



AP
In this July 12, 2016, photo, passengers prepare to check bags at a Delta Air Lines counter at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport in Linthicum, Md. Delta Air Lines is rolling out new technology to better track bags throughout its system.



AP
This July 12, 2016, photo, shows the inside of a sample RFID-enabled Delta Air Lines baggage tag, at top, at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport in Linthicum, Md.

planes out on time.

Delta designed its system to stop those errors. At the airline's 84 largest airports—accounting for 85 percent of its passengers - Delta will have 1,500 special belt loaders with RFID readers built in. Those loaders - like the one DaRosa was using—stop when a bag for a different flight is accidentally placed on the belt.

"It's amazing technology," says DaRosa, a ramp supervisor who has been testing the technology at Baltimore Washington International Airport. "It's going to totally eliminate a bunch of careless little errors."

Replacing handheld scanners allows ramp workers to use both hands to lift bags, reducing injuries and speeding up the loading and unloading

process. RFID also shortens the time needed to find and remove a bag from a plane at the last second. All of that means more on-time flights.

Delta is also using RFID to track bags through the labyrinth of conveyor belts below terminals. If bags fall off a belt at a particular curve or get stuck at a junction, Delta will now have enough RFID readers - about 5,200 globally - to pinpoint the trouble spot and fix it. The Atlanta-based airline says it plans to have the system online in 344 airports by the end of August.

The new tags look like traditional ones. But if held up to the light, passengers can see a fingernail-size chip and a credit card size antenna inlaid inside.

By the end of this year, fliers will be able to track their bags through the Delta smartphone app, getting push notifications at each step of the journey. If a bag misses its flight, passengers are also notified instantly.

That way passengers "aren't standing at a baggage carousel waiting for the last piece of luggage to come off to realize their bag isn't there," says Sandy Gordon, Delta's vice president of airport operations for the eastern U.S.

Most passengers' bags do arrive on time. But there are so hiccups, with 1 out of every 500 bags Delta carried last year failing to do so. It's a record surpassed by only Virgin America and JetBlue Airways, which both have smaller and simpler route networks. Twice

The quest to end lost airline luggage

as many were delayed last year on American Airlines, according to statistics reported to the Department of Transportation. Bags often get delayed when bad weather forces tight connections or passengers are rerouted onto new flights.

Of the 245,000 bags Delta mishandled last year, 208,000 of them arrived within three hours, according to the airline. Another 25,000 were reunited with passengers within 12 hours. The remaining 12,000 were either lost or took more than 12 hours to be delivered.

Installing RFID isn't going to solve all of Delta's baggage problems. But the airline estimates a 10-percent reduction in delayed bags. That means about 25,000 fewer bags the airline has to deliver to passengers' homes, offices or hotel rooms.

For the past five years, Australian airline Qantas has offered a permanent RFID bag tag that fliers can purchase for about \$23 and use when flying the airline domestically. Several big airports, including those in Las Vegas, Hong Kong, Milan and Tokyo, use RFID to track bags through parts of their systems.

But Delta, the world's second largest carrier by passenger traffic, is providing the

most-comprehensive tracking the industry has seen to date.

Airlines have long found RFID too pricey but the cost has dropped. McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas says it currently pays 12 cents for each RFID tag, down from 21.5 cents a decade ago. Traditional tags cost the airport 3 cents. Delta refused to say how much it's paying for RFID bag tags, except that it is less than 10 cents each.

The new tracking system won't follow every suitcase.

There are limitations. It includes bags checked at the gate and claimed at a baggage carousel. But items like strollers or bags checked at the gate for regional jets—those picked up at the arriving gate—currently aren't tracked with RFID.

If a Delta passenger connects onto a flight with a Delta partner like Air France, the traditional barcode tag takes over for the final leg of the journey. However, an Air France passenger connecting to a Delta flight gets a RFID sticker added to the traditional tag when their luggage first enters Delta's possession.

And nothing is preventing the airline from losing your bag if any of these tags get ripped off along the way.

Environment

By **NATALIE KITROEFF**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

California's new climate bill may dampen growth but it won't cripple the economy

California's landmark climate bill, passed by the Assembly this week, has earned the ire of business groups that say it will cripple their industries. The law will not be a money-maker for everyone, but it probably won't wreak havoc on the economy either, research shows.

The new legislation, SB 32, which Gov. Jerry Brown has vowed to approve, requires a cut in emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. It extends a 2006 measure that called for reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

"The total impacts on the economy range from negligible from very slightly positive," says Stephen Levy, an economist at the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy in Palo Alto.

After the Legislature passed its initial carbon emissions bill a decade ago, California's air regulator studied the economic effect through 2020.

That 2010 report, published by the California Air Resources Board, found that the law could slow growth slightly, but would probably have a negligible effect on personal income, compared with a scenario without any reduction in emissions.

Utilities and mining companies stood to lose the most jobs, the report said.

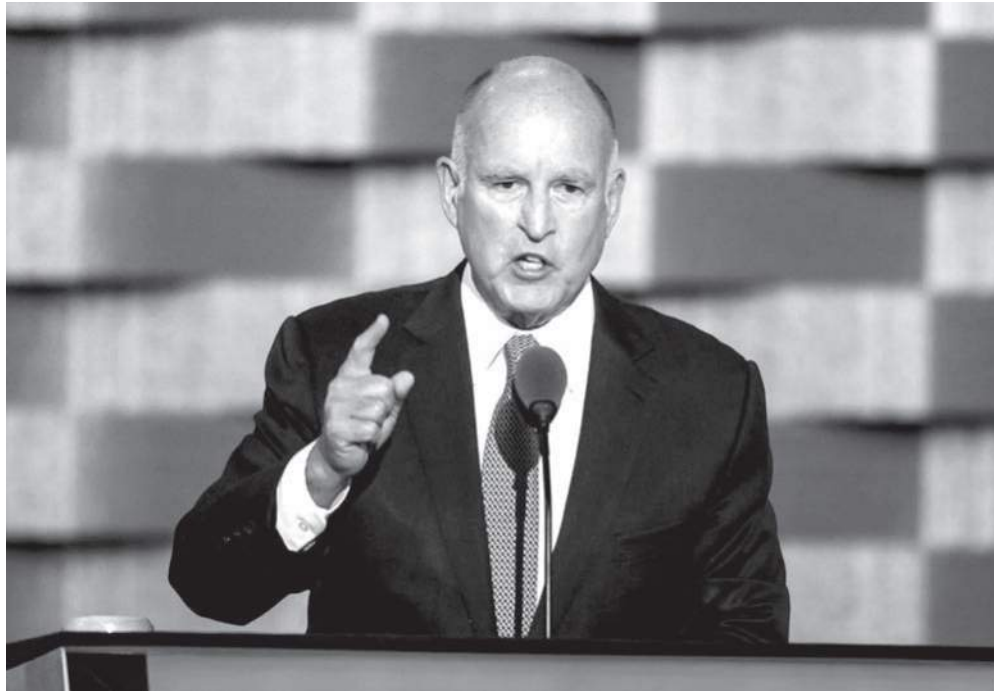
But the information sec-

tor, which includes tech jobs in Silicon Valley, would see increased demand for labor. That's probably because getting to lower greenhouse emissions often requires developing new technology. Finance and agriculture could also see an increase in their need for workers, according to the study.

It is inevitable that a measure cutting emissions would also lead to job cuts, economists said, since some industries won't be able to replace the work currently powered by fossil fuels. "That's the point of legislation," Levy said.

He added that the study didn't factor in potentially broad economic gains, including improvements in workers' health that would come from improving air quality in the state.

Levy was one of several economists who reviewed that initial study, and published a report showing California stood to lose at most 320,000 jobs. That is a significant number of positions, but their disappearance would not radically alter the economy in California, where the overall workforce has swelled to 19 million people.



California Gov. Jerry Brown speaks on the third day of the Democratic National Convention at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia on Wednesday, July 27, 2016.

In the best-case scenario, the state would add 10,000 jobs, the committee of economists found.

Since 2010, when the report was released, California has added more than 2 million jobs, including farm and non-farm positions, for a growth rate of about 2 percent a year. That's faster than the country as a whole, which grew jobs at

around 1.5 percent a year over the same period.

The average weekly wage in California has increased by nearly 9 percent in that time, after adjusting for inflation, compared with a 6 percent increase for the country overall, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

It isn't a sure bet that the report's optimism applies to the

new law, or to the current economic climate.

Oil refineries have vigorously opposed the new standards, arguing that they give too much power to the state government and undermine market-driven solutions to California's smog problem.

"There is no accountability in providing blank check authority to a state bureaucracy,"

the Western States Petroleum Association, an oil lobbying group, said in a statement. The group added that the new law "puts accessible and reliable energy at risk." The group did not address a partner bill, AB 197, that increases oversight over the Air Resources Board, which will administer the initiative.

Manufacturing groups have also complained. The California Manufacturers and Technology Association, said the bill would "increase costs on manufacturers ... threatening manufacturing jobs, expansions and other investments."

At the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, demanding even more emissions cuts may have a bigger effect than in the past.

The ports take in nearly 40 percent of all shipments to the country and rely heavily on trucks, which run on diesel.

Much of the large machinery hauling containers off ships is old and environmentally imperfect.

"You're going to be increasing the cost of moving goods through California ports," said Jock O'Connell, a trade expert at Los Angeles consulting company Beacon Economics.

Feisty competitors on the South and East coasts have been eating into Los Angeles-area ports' business, and in June the Panama Canal opened wider channels that may divert more traffic away.

Lake Tahoe: Warmest water temperatures ever recorded threaten famed clarity, new study shows

By **PAUL ROGERS**
THE MERCURY NEWS

Lake Tahoe's average surface temperature last year was the warmest ever recorded, the latest evidence that climate change is altering California's iconic Sierra Nevada landmark.

In a report released Thursday by the University of California, Davis, scientists said that the lake's waters in the past four years have been warming at 15 times their historic average.

The air temperature at the lake is becoming steadily hotter too. The winter of 2014-15 saw just 24 days where the average temperature dropped below freezing at the lake, according to the report, and only 6 percent of last year's precipitation fell as snow — both all-time lows.

The ominous evidence threatens efforts in recent years to improve Lake Tahoe's famed blue clarity by reducing pollution. That's because the warming water will likely result in more algae growth, silt and invasive

species, researchers said.

"The lake is changing, and it is changing at an increasing rate," said Geoffrey Schladow, director of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

The picture of a steadily warming lake—and a vacation wonderland with a relentless trend toward hotter weather, more rain and less snow—emerged from the 2016 "State of the Lake" report, a document the center publishes every year.

Straddling the California-Nevada border, Lake Tahoe is the second deepest lake in America. It's 1,645 feet at its deepest point, behind only Crater Lake in Oregon. If the Empire State Building were submerged in Lake Tahoe, the top of its spire would still be below 200 feet of water. Roughly 3 million people visit each year.

"This year's report is definitely a warning," said Darcie Goodman Collins, executive director of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, an environmental group. "We need

to improve our efforts."

Last year, the lake's average clarity was 73.1 feet, the UC Davis scientists reported. That's a 4.8-foot decrease from the previous year.

The worst recorded average clarity was 64.1 feet in 1997, and the best was 102 feet, in 1968, the year measurements began. As the lake's crystal clarity began to suffer in the 1970s and '80s from fertilizer, polluted runoff and erosion, environmentalists launched a Keep Tahoe Blue effort. Federal officials and scientists began devoting more money and attention to the lake.

Local rules were tightened and education campaigns launched to reduce erosion and the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus—chemicals that can cause algae to increase in the lake—from fertilizer and old septic systems and air pollution from vehicles. Homeowners were required to capture stormwater from their properties—channeling water from gutters into filters in gardens, for example, to keep it from running into the lake.

The work paid off: Lake clarity has generally improved over the past decade.

But now the warmer water and weather are presenting a new challenge.

Colder water, from the melting of snow, is dense, so it sinks in the lake, Schladow said. But when precipitation comes mostly from rain, it's warmer, and the silt and other tiny debris it washes into the lake stay near the surface.

Also, UC Davis scientists in recent years have noticed that the lake isn't mixing as thoroughly as it did when they began studying it nearly five decades ago. That means oxygen isn't cycling to the bottom as much, increasing the risk of "dead zones."

The 10 hottest years globally since 1880, when modern records began, have all occurred since 1998, with 2015 the hottest. Humans burning coal, gasoline and other fossil fuels have sent carbon dioxide concentrations worldwide to the highest level in at least 400,000 years, according to NASA. And that carbon traps

heat in the atmosphere.

The impacts at Lake Tahoe have been dramatic, measured by exhaustive UC Davis research.

Consider:

■ In 2015, the average surface temperature of the lake was 53.3 degrees, up from 50.3 in 1968. That was the warmest recorded since consistent measurements began that year.

■ Daily readings taken since 1911 at Tahoe City show that the daily minimum air temperature has increased 4.3 degrees Fahrenheit, and the daily maximum is up 2 degrees since then.

■ The winter of 2014-15 had only 24 days where the average daily temperature was below freezing. That's the fewest in 105 years of measurements. From 1910 to 1930, every year had more than 55 days below freezing.

■ Peak snow melt, the day when the streams flowing into Lake Tahoe reach their highest levels, is now the earliest since measurements began in 1961. It is occurring 15 days earlier

than in the 1960s — mid-May instead of early June.

Residents of the Lake Tahoe area, Collins said, will have to do more to make the area more resilient to the changing temperatures. That means restoring more wetlands around the lake to naturally filter pollutants, she said, and tightening rules to reduce polluted runoff.

"There's not much we can do to influence global climate change," she said. "But we can influence the lake's health."

In recent years, UC Davis researchers have built 10 scientific monitoring stations to take readings every 30 seconds of water temperature, wave height, algae concentrations and other key indicators — and then report them online. Each one, which sits in 7 feet of water, costs \$50,000. The UC Davis Tahoe center is trying to raise enough money to buy another 15 to complete the Tahoe network.

"The same things we are seeing at Lake Tahoe are playing out at lakes all across the West," Schladow said.

Life & Style

After lengthy stand-off with police, Chris Brown arrested

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown can't avoid trouble.

Following a bizarre, hours-long stand-off with police, the "No Air" and "Kiss Kiss" singer was arrested Tuesday afternoon on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon after a woman called for help from a gathering at his home.

The arrest, which occurred outside the view of several news helicopters that swirled overhead and throngs of camera crews gathered at the bottom of Brown's hilltop estate, marked the conclusion of nearly 14-hour-long stand-off and investigation by police.

Los Angeles police spokesman Lt. Chris Ramirez said officers first responded to Brown's property in the Tarzana neighborhood of Los Angeles around 3 a.m. He did not identify the woman, elaborate on the assistance she needed or know if she was injured.

However, model Baylee Curran told the Los Angeles Times that Brown pointed a gun at her face. She said Brown and another man became angry with her when she admired the man's diamond necklace. Curran said she and her friend ran out-



In this June 7, 2015, file photo, rapper Chris Brown performs at the 2015 Hot 97 Summer Jam at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

side as one of Brown's associates gave chase and hid under a neighbor's SUV.

The model, who hasn't responded to requests for comment from The Associated Press, also told TMZ she's visited Brown's home in the past and never encountered any trouble.

Brown later posted rambling messages on social media Tuesday morning proclaiming his innocence and rebuffing reports that he barricaded himself in his "palace."

"Y'all gonna stop playing with me like I'm the villain out here, like I'm going cra-

zy," he said in one Instagram video, waving a cigarette and looking at the camera. "When you get the warrant or whatever you need to do, you're going to walk right up in here and you're going to see nothing. You idiots."

Apparently, the police saw something.

Brown's attorney, Mark Geragos, arrived at the house before police served a search warrant around 1 p.m. Geragos, who has not responded to AP's request for comment, stayed on the property until about 5 p.m. when Brown was transported for booking downtown.

AP

MTV considers VMA changes because of audience shift

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV says it will consider airing its Video Music Awards live across the country in future years, a reflection of how the annual celebration of pop culture is increasingly being experienced online instead of on television.

This year's show, featuring a 16-minute Beyonce mini-concert, four performances by Rihanna and a Kanye West monologue, was watched by 6.5 million people on one of the 11 Viacom networks that aired it, the Nielsen company said. That's sharply down from the 9.8 million who watched the 2015 show.

A buzz deficiency is one factor, but another is the rapid change in how MTV's young audience consumes content.

The network said Tuesday that there were 149 million streams of VMA content online Sunday and Monday, a combination of live streaming through MTV's website and aggressive packaging of video clips on venues like Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and the like. The majority of streams (86 million) came Monday, after people heard or read about the show and wanted to check out clips, MTV said.

The comparable number of streams for 2015 was 30.7 million, MTV said.

MTV traditionally airs the show live at 9 p.m. on the east coast, and at the same hour via tape delay in other time zones. That follows the common television rule of placing content at a time when advertisers will pay more for commercials.

Sean Atkins, MTV president, said Tuesday that may change.

"In a world where you are multi-platforming, when I can experience it on my feed from my friends on Facebook who are in New York, are you better off just going live?" he asked. "You give everyone essentially equal access to every platform at the same time."

On Facebook, which has become more aggressive promoting video in the past year, there were 45.8 million streams of VMA material on Sunday, compared to 4.4 million in 2015, MTV said.

Atkins said MTV is committed to giving its fans access to its material in as many ways as possible.

"Gone are the days where TV is where you go to," he said. "TV has to come to you."

The challenge for a network like MTV is making the new

model work financially. All of those clips are accompanied by advertisements, but aren't nearly as valuable as the ads shown on television.

The stark decline of the VMAs as a TV product means less money for the TV ads, too. In 2011, the VMAs - known more for outlandish behavior or performances than its awards - attracted 12.4 million viewers on MTV alone. This year, 3.3 million people saw the show on MTV, with the total viewership swelling because it aired on some many other networks.

Again by more common TV rules, MTV would seem to have been hurt by an inability to announce that Beyonce was performing until the day of the show, by agreement with the singer's camp. This reduced the ability to drum up interest through advance promotion.

But Atkins noted that there were widespread rumors among MTV's fans before Sunday that she would appear, and that he didn't think the late notice made much difference in the show's television ratings.

MTV had no numbers, but said Beyonce's performance was the most-streamed part of the show.

The stand-off and subsequent media attention provided a chaotic scene in the balmy and typically quiet neighborhood of Tarzana as police closed off nearby streets and rerouted traffic.

Throughout the afternoon, several of Brown's associates descended to the street below Brown's estate. They declined to identify themselves or answer questions from the media about what occurred. In some instances, the men were belligerent, flashing obscene

hand gestures and grabbing recording equipment.

The incident is the latest in a series of missteps for Brown, who has been in repeated legal trouble since his felony conviction in the 2009 assault of his then-girlfriend, Rihanna, ahead of the Grammys. Last year, he completed his probation in that case last.

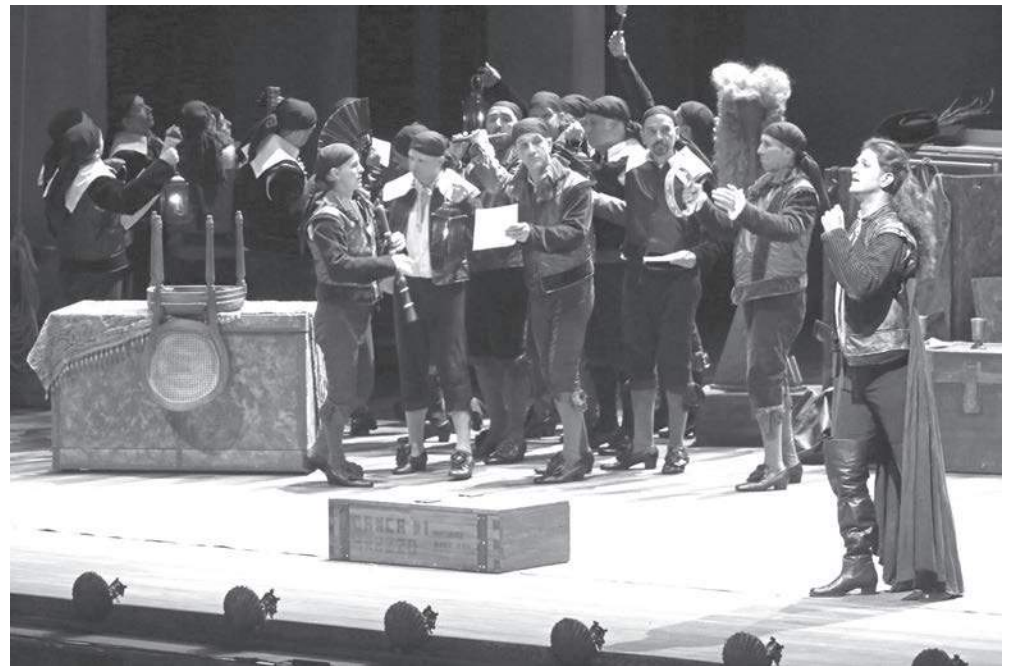
In 2013, Brown struck a man outside a Washington, D.C., hotel and was charged with misdemeanor assault. The singer was ordered into

rehab but was dismissed from the facility for violating its rules.

Brown spent 2½ months in custody, with U.S. marshals shuttling him between Los Angeles and the nation's capital for court hearings.

In another incident while in treatment, Brown was accused of throwing a brick at his mother's car following a counseling session. It came after Brown completed court-ordered anger management classes

Skyscraper-filled Dubai burnishes arts scene with new opera



Opera singer Bogdan Mihai, right, plays the role of Il Conte d'Almaviva at the beginning of a dress rehearsal of "The Barber of Seville" at the new Dubai Opera House in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2016.

AP

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Already filled with towering skyscrapers, Dubai will soon offer soaring arias inside a new opera house.

The city-state is opening the Dubai Opera on Wednesday night, in the shadow of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building.

This isn't the first opera house built on the Arabian Peninsula, as Oman opened the Royal Opera House Muscat in 2011. But the arrival of the performance center comes as part of a greater push by the United Arab Emirates, already home to engineering marvels, into the world of the fine arts.

"It certainly couldn't be said that Dubai has no culture; it's got an enormous amount of culture," Dubai Opera's chief executive Jasper Hope told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "What it hasn't had is a world-class stage, a world-class facility to display that culture."

"What Dubai Opera offers is an opportunity now for people to know that there is a home—a true home—for world-class

culture here in Dubai."

The opera house resembles a dhow, the traditional wooden boat that can still be seen plying the waters of the Dubai Creek. Its glass bow rises up to a point looking out at the dancing Dubai Fountain, and a multi-story glass chandelier resembling a fishing net hangs in the lobby. The building sits near the 828-meter (2,717-foot)-tall Burj Khalifa and the nearby Dubai Mall in the city-state's chic downtown.

Inside, individual air conditioning vents beneath the 2,000-some seats are designed to quietly cool the auditorium during the desert city's boiling summers, when temperatures exceed 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). The auditorium can be reconfigured for gala events and other performances.

Emaar Properties, which is partially owned by the Dubai government, developed the opera house. It refused to say how much the structure cost when asked by the AP.

Those on hand for a dress rehearsal Tuesday of the opera "The Barber of Seville" also

stopped journalists and those gathered from taking pictures outside of the building, as migrant workers rushed to finish constructing a set of exterior stairs. The opera will open Wednesday night with a performance by famed Spanish tenor Plácido Domingo.

The Dubai Opera offers a new draw for planned Emaar high-rise residential towers downtown, and could bring concerts and events out of the cavernous, air-conditioned halls of the city's World Trade Center.

The arrival of the opera house comes amid a push in the seven-sheikhdom United Arab Emirates to increase its presence on the global arts stage.

In the country's capital, construction continues on the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the forthcoming Emirati branch of the famed Parisian art gallery. A branch of the New York-based Guggenheim Museum is also planned. And in Dubai, a fledgling art district has sprung up among the factories and warehouses of its Al Quoz industrial area.

There they are: 52 Miss America contestants in Atlantic City

Beats wins in case alleging double dealing before its sale to Apple

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has dismissed the key claims in a lawsuit alleging that headphone maker Beats Electronics duped one of its early partners before negotiating its \$3 billion sale to Apple two years ago.

The summary judgment issued late Monday by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge William Fahey resolves the heart of a case that accused Beats co-founders Dr. Dre and Jimmy Iovine of double-crossing former partner Noel Lee, founder of video and audio cable maker Monster LLC.

The allegations, made in a lawsuit filed last year, had been scheduled to go to trial next week. Now the trial will be limited to Beats' effort to

force Monster to pay its attorney fees and other costs.

Apple declined to comment on the ruling, but Beats has always maintained Monster's lawsuit was frivolous.

Monster attorney Philip Gregory didn't respond to requests for comment.

Lee once held a 5 percent stake in Beats as part of a partnership between the headphone maker and Monster that ended in 2012. The lawsuit alleged Dre, a former rap singer whose real name is Andre Young, and Iovine, a former record producer, orchestrated a "sham" deal with smartphone maker HTC in 2011 that led to the termination of the Monster alliance.



AP
In this Thursday, May 29, 2014, file photo, a customer holds a pair of Beats headphones at a Best Buy store in Hialeah, Fla.



ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—There they are: the 52 Miss America contestants, on the Atlantic City Boardwalk—and not a moment too soon for a city that could use a happy diversion.

The hopefuls were welcomed to the seaside resort Tuesday afternoon to kick off two weeks that will culminate in the crowning of the 2017 Miss America on Sept. 11.

They arrived as Atlantic

City faces yet another imminent casino closing—the Trump Taj Mahal is due to shut down on Oct. 10—as well as a threatened state takeover of its finances and decision-making power.

The city also is bracing for the possibility that voters will choose to authorize two new casinos in the northern part of the state in a November referendum that Atlantic City officials fear will cause even more

of the city's eight casinos to go out of business.

"Miss America is just what this city needs right now," said Mayor Don Guardian. "We may be struggling financially, but we know where we want to go. You certainly want to put your best foot forward, and this brings people to Atlantic City to have fun and enjoy what we have to offer."

The contestants from all 50 states, the District of Colum-

AP
The contestants pose for a group photograph during Miss America Pageant arrival ceremonies Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2016, in Atlantic City.

bia and Puerto Rico met the public in front of Boardwalk Hall on Tuesday.

This year's competition is the 96th in the history of the pageant, which originated as a way to extend the summer tourist season in Atlantic City for an extra week beyond Labor Day.

The current Miss America, Betty Cantrell, recalled sitting on the same stage a year ago as one of more than 50 hopefuls.

"It seems like you're so small," she said. "You're one of 52 girls: how are you going to be noticed? The best thing you can do is just be yourself."

Cantrell, who was Miss Georgia, says she is headed to Nashville after the pageant to begin a career in country music.

"I'm thrilled to be passing on the crown to one of these amazing young women," she said. "I think it's in very good hands."

Woman identified as rapper T-Pain's niece, killed in Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Police say a 23-year-old woman later identified by rapper and record-producer T-Pain as his niece was fatally stabbed outside a drug store in Tallahassee.

Tallahassee police said that

Javona Glover was stabbed Tuesday morning outside a Walgreens. Police say Glover was bleeding heavily when medical personnel arrived, and that she died shortly thereafter.

On his verified Twitter ac-

count, the Grammy Award-winning T-Pain, who is from Tallahassee, tweeted a link to a news story about the killing and asked for help identifying the suspect.

Neither the artist, whose real name is Faheem Najm, nor his

representatives returned requests seeking comment.

Police identified the suspect as Tavon Jackson after interviewing witnesses and processing evidence at the scene. Police released no further information about Jackson.

Lochte mum on Rio return, plugs 'Dancing with the Stars' gig

NEW YORK (AP)—Ryan Lochte isn't saying whether he'll return to Brazil to face a charge of filing a false police report over a gas station encounter during the Olympics.

Lochte tells ABC's "Good

Morning America" his legal team is dealing with the situation, adding "we're just trying to get this over with."

Despite his current woes, Lochte was named Tuesday as one of the contestants on the

upcoming edition of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

Lochte admits he lied about having a gun held to his head at a Rio de Janeiro gas station, where he and three other American swimmers had

stopped to use a restroom. Lochte says he has offered to reimburse fellow swimmer James Feigen for a nearly \$11,000 fine Feigen paid to resolve legal issues and leave the country.

Girl feels pressure to choose her path after high school

DEAR ABBY: I'm a young woman of 16 years and I'm in the second year of high school. Next year will be my last, and then I will have the pressure of relatives and friends wondering what I will do with my life.

When I was little, I said I was going to be a stylist. I liked that idea, but after I did some research about it, I realized it is not for me. I have also thought about journalism and specializing in fashion, but don't know if it's something I want for my life.

I would love to do medicine, perhaps pediatrics or oncology. They are very beautiful professions. Should I pursue the career I always wanted as a child, or a career that I think is beautiful and will give me a good life? Help!

JULIA FROM BRAZIL

DEAR JULIA: The dreams people have as children usually change as they mature. It appears that yours are no different. The careers you are contemplating now can make a huge difference in the lives of others, and reward you well if you work hard and are successful. If you would love the practice of medicine and have the aptitude for it, that's the way I think you should go.

DEAR ABBY: I am terrified of driving on the interstate. It is keeping me from going places I want to go and doing things I

want to do. I don't know anyone else with this phobia. Is there any help for someone like me?

READY TO ROLL IN MONTANA

DEAR READY: Of course there is. Your first step should be to contact a driving school to find out if it offers courses for people with a fear of driving on the interstate. However, if you can't bring yourself to dip your toe in the water that way, ask your physician to put you in touch with a psychotherapist who specializes in relieving people of their phobias.

DEAR ABBY: I don't know what's wrong with me. I work in a school, so I have the summers off, but I can't relax and enjoy myself. Every day I constantly think about having to go back to work when summer is over, and I dread it. I also find myself dwelling on past mistakes I have made and regrets about things I did or didn't do. As a result, it prevents me from enjoying the present.

Do other people have this problem? Have you any advice to help me stop thinking about the past and the future and how I can enjoy the here and now?

CAN'T RELAX IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR CAN'T RELAX: Nothing lasts forever, includ-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ing summer vacation. However, may I point out that if you have a job you "dread" returning to, it may be time to consider finding a new one?

As to past regrets spoiling your present, a way to stop dwelling on those negative thoughts would be to say ALOUD to yourself: "That was then. This is NOW. I'm wiser now." Then make a conscious effort to reorient yourself to the present. I'm not saying it won't take vigilance and practice, but hearing yourself speak the words may snap you back to where you belong.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

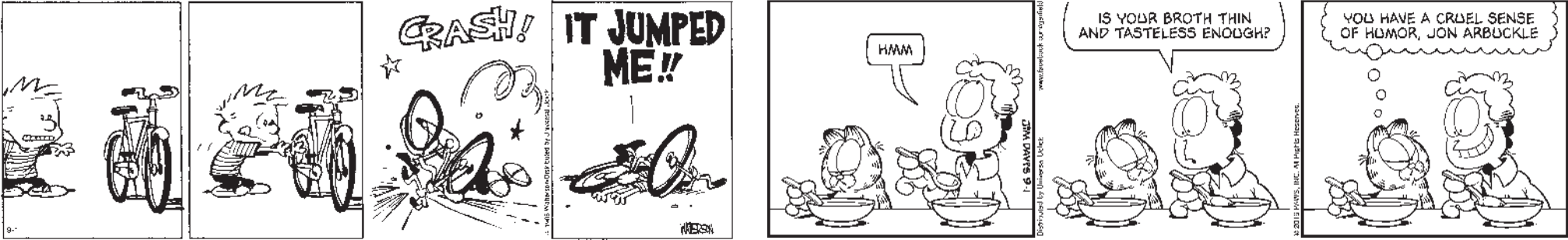
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Notion

5 "Born in the —"

8 Gush

12 Main-tained

13 Refusals

14 Scrabble piece

15 Margarine

16 Bankbook abbr.

17 One

18 Kind of table

20 Pictures

22 Equi-

23 Dadaist

24 Jean

27 Tubular pasta

32 St. crosser

33 Super Bowl org.

34 Diarist

35 Generosity

38 "Zounds!"

39 Apr. addressee

40 Sprite

42 Disdainful

45 Kind of table

49 Commotion

50 Internet address

52 Vittles

53 Tel —

54 Singer

55 Snare

56 Indy event

57 Flow out

58 Slithery

DOWN

1 Denny's rival

2 Sandwich shop

3 Power co. supply

4 Hand-some guy

5 Mythical beasts

6 Junior

7 Wine region

8 "— Little" (E.B. White novel)

9 Kind of table

10 Author

11 Saturates

19 "This — an outrage!"

21 Goat's plaint

24 — Tech

25 Eggs table

26 Kind of table

28 Condi-tions

29 Choral group

30 Actress Long

31 Neither Rep. nor Dem.

36 Furrow

37 Superla-tive suffix

38 Soft and weak

41 — and behold

42 Luminary

43 PBS

47 List-ending abbr.

48 Catch sight of

51 Steal from

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 9-1

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zendaya, 20; Gloria Estefan, 59; Barry Gibb, 70; Lily Tomlin, 77.

Happy Birthday: Do what makes the most sense to you. Practicality will help you keep situations from getting blown out of proportion. The more time spent on self-improvement, networking and improving your health, the easier it will be to deal with any outside influences that surface. Anger will limit you, but being proactive and positive will help you get ahead. Your numbers are 1, 7, 13, 26, 38, 41, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be disciplined and stay on top of what's going on at work as well as your personal finances. Interviews, negotiations and signing contracts are all favored. Celebrate with someone you love. Romance will improve your personal life. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Live and learn. You'll face a difficult decision about how to best help others and at the same time support your own interests. If someone puts pressure on you, head in a different direction. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Proceed with caution. Listen carefully and keep your distance from anyone who is looking for a fight. Moderation, practicality and minding your own business will allow you to focus on personal discipline and improvements instead of wasting your time fending off criticism. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Good things will come to those who show patience, tolerance and are willing to work diligently toward set goals. Your tenacity and

practical input will pay off when dealing with partners or groups. Protect against health hazards and minor mishaps. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep an open mind, but don't fold under pressure. You'll face controversy and might be offered iffy information from someone who is trying to get you to part with your hard-earned cash. Invest in yourself, not someone else. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Express your concerns and listen to suggestions. The interaction between you and someone you respect will help you resolve a pending issue. Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Let your intuition guide you. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Good fortune is heading your way. Update your look and put your best foot forward. You'll make a good impression if you are a self-starter. Being willing to put in the hours and finish what you start. You'll be recognized and rewarded. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let someone from your past ruin what you've worked so hard to build. Temptation will lead to trouble. Stay focused on what you want, not what someone else is trying to get you to do. Perseverance will pay off. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Live and learn. Don't be fooled by someone who is offering you something unrealistic. Take a step back and learn from past experiences before you make the same mistake twice. You'll avoid poor habits and influences if you show discipline and courage. **

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your insight into future trends will help you make wise choices. Fixing up your home or making a move that will raise your standard of living will encourage you to keep working hard and enjoying the benefits of your labor. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Invest in personal growth. Putting a disciplined regimen in place will help you make your way to the winner's circle. Celebrating your hard work with someone you love will make your efforts worthwhile. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional deception will set in when dealing with relationships and your responsibilities to others. Do your best to honor promises, but don't take on unreasonable tasks. Try to keep your balance and avoid arguments. ***

Birthday Baby: You are precise and strong-willed. You are practical, helpful and caring.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com. Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

9x9 grid with numbers 1-9. Difficulty Level: ***

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays SUDOKU Answer

9x9 grid with numbers 1-9. Difficulty Level: ***

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

KEEPING YOUNG Solution: 8 letters

Word search grid with letters S, N, I, A, R, G, N, I, G, A, I, T, N, A, R, W, H, T, R, A, E, H, T, H, G, I, E, W, E, C, A, O, D, A, N, C, I, N, G, E, P, M, L, R, N, L, B, L, A, P, N, I, K, S, E, R, A, E, O, O, K, B, E, G, R, A, H, C, E, R, X, A, I, B, I, I, L, E, O, L, N, L, S, A, M, T, C, I, X, N, E, Y, S, T, A, S, O, T, S, I, R, S, C, E, G, S, T, M, E, B, F, I, I, R, N, E, T, S, L, F, L, S, I, I, T, O, T, T, H, D, S, I, P, P, A, U, E, L, N, N, S, U, E, T, S, N, U, O, M, C, C, F, E, S, E, N, D, M, V, R, A, R, R, O, E, S, I, C, R, E, X, E, I, L, O, E, F, T, C, W, E, L, L, N, E, S, S, A, E, A, L, N, S, K, M, E, D, I, T, A, T, E, V, I, T, C, A, D, E, O, V, E, R, S, T, N, E, M, E, L, P, P, U, S

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Active, Aerobics, Ages, Antiaging, Balance, Calm, Care, Cleanser, Complexion, Creams, Dancing, Diet, Exercise, Face, Fashion, Fruits, Glow, Grains, Heart, Hobbies, Lifestyle, Love, Meditate, Mind, Nutrition, Proteins, Recharge, Relaxation, Rest, Skin, Sleep, Smile, Soft, Soul, Sports, Supplements, Trends, Walking, Weight, Wellness

Yesterdays Answer: Jenga To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive
Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner: John Albert Benavente

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF:
FERNANDO CEPEDA
BENAVENTE,
Aka: "Nanding,"**
Decedent.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0176

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR LETTERS
OF ADMINISTRATION AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Date: Sept. 29, 2016
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Judge: Camacho

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS,
OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE FERNANDO CEPEDA
BENAVENTE OR OF HIS ESTATE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, John Albert Benavente, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Fernando Cepeda Benavente, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by John Albert Benavente, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on Sept. 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

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Application forms may be obtained at the HRD Office, Kanoa Resort. Interested applicants may also send their resumes to hr@kanoaresort.com

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Lawsuit pending, Bouchard ousted; Serena, Venus win

NEW YORK (AP)—Eugenie Bouchard wrung her hands at her post-match news conference. She rubbed her lower lip. She squeezed her left arm.

While her body language screamed discomfort Tuesday, when the main topic of discussion was Bouchard's ongoing lawsuit against the U.S. Open rather than her first-round loss, her words were measured. The once rising star answered every question.

A year ago at Flushing Meadows, Bouchard got a concussion from a fall at the facility and withdrew before playing in the fourth round, and then missed most of the rest of the season. She filed suit against the U.S. Tennis Association in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn in October, and that case is still pending, putting the 2014 Wimbledon runner-up in the odd position of competing this week at an event whose organizers she is suing.

"If I sit down and think about it, yeah, it's definitely a strange situation. But it's something that's so far in the back of my mind. I don't think about it on a daily basis, at all. I have people, lawyers, working on that side of it," Bouchard said. "So it's really not something I think about much at all. Obviously, being here, it's crossed my mind. But besides that, I mean, it has nothing to do with my day-to-day life."

Her 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 exit against 72nd-ranked Katerina Sinikova of the Czech Republic,



^{AP}
Venus Williams returns a shot to Kateryna Kozlova of the Ukraine during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2016, in New York.

sets around the grounds during the afternoon, including 19-year-old American Jared Donaldson's 4-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-0 elimination of 12th-seeded David Goffin, and a loss by No. 29 Sam Querrey, who stunned Djokovic at Wimbledon. Three seeded women departed, including former No. 1 and 2008 French Open champion Ana Ivanovic.

When she was at her peak, and a seeded player, an early major loss by Bouchard was rather newsworthy. Her up-and-down 2015 and 2016 have changed that, in part because she is ranked only 39th now, after a best of No. 5.

She lost 14 of 17 matches leading into the 2015 U.S. Open but, after working a bit with Jimmy Connors, appeared to be back on the upswing in New York by reaching the fourth round. Then came her slip-and-tumble, and the concussion diagnosis, and she pulled out of what would have been a matchup against eventual runner-up Roberta Vinci.

It took her until January to return to the tour full-time.

"I didn't feel like, on the court, I was back to where I was," Bouchard said Tuesday, meaning that her level of play wasn't at its peak at the start of 2016. "But physically, since the beginning of the year, I've been feeling good."

USTA spokesman Chris Widmaier said the organization would not comment on the "substance" of litigation.

"However, it is truly unfortunate that a year after her accident, Genie's focus is on matters other than playing to her best ability," Widmaier said, noting that Bouchard's lawyers asked for an extension of the case.

He said the USTA "has remained ready, willing and able to bring the litigation to a conclusion as expeditiously as is possible, whether through settlement discussions or a fully litigated process."

Widmaier added that the lawsuit "had no impact on how Genie was treated at the U.S. Open in any manner."

Bouchard's coach, Nick Saviano, was asked whether her ability to play tennis Tuesday had been affected at all by any possible distractions created by the lawsuit.

"I can't really speak to that," Saviano said. "She was in a good frame of mind coming in. She went out, she was ready to play, and the other girl played well."

a player who only once has been as far as the third round at a major tournament, was filled with 46 unforced errors by Bouchard, who also was treated for blisters on her feet. It represented the latest early loss for a 22-year-old Canadian who reached three Grand Slam semifinals two years ago—and none since.

In other first-round action on Day 2 at the year's last Grand Slam tournament,

Serena Williams started her bid for a record-breaking 23rd major title by showing zero signs of trouble from a right shoulder she's said was sore, hitting 12 aces in a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Ekaterina Makarova. Also under the lights: Andy Murray got off to a similarly easy beginning to his attempt to become the fourth

man in the Open era to reach all four Grand Slam finals in a single season.

The 2012 champion at Flushing Meadows and seeded No. 2 this year, Murray beat Lukas Rosol 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. Murray lost to No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the finals of the Australian Open in January and French Open in June, and then won his second Wimble-

don title last month.

Earlier, Williams' sister Venus got through a tougher-than-expected 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 win against Kateryna Kozlova.

"It was great to be challenged and to be pushed," said the 36-year-old Venus, a two-time U.S. Open champion, "because I had to get in those situations that you know you're going to face in the tournament."

There were various up-



Vikings: QB Bridgewater has dislocated knee, torn ACL



EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Minnesota Vikings quarterback

Teddy Bridgewater is expected to miss at least the next season while recovering from a dislocated left knee and torn anterior cruciate ligament after a freak practice injury on Tuesday.

Bridgewater was taken by ambulance to a hospital after crumpling to the turf during practice, and the team announced hours later that his knee also had "other structural damage" that will need to be repaired in a surgery that will be scheduled in the coming days. But the team did say he had no nerve or arterial damage and it expects a full recovery after a "significant" rehabilitation.

"Teddy has already displayed the attitude needed to overcome this injury and attack his rehab," said Eric Sugarman, the director of sports medicine and head athletic trainer for the Vi-

kings.

Bridgewater suffered a non-contact knee injury while dropping back to pass, and it was so jolting that coach Mike Zimmer immediately ended practice. Players were visibly distraught as they left the field, some hurling expletives into the air and others kneeling in prayer for one of the team's most popular players. Moments later, a siren-blaring ambulance rushed to team headquarters to get the quarterback to the hospital.

It was a somber scene for a shaken franchise, one that reported to training camp with designs on a Super Bowl run.

"Sometimes the worst things happen to the best (people)," Vikings receiver Jarius Wright tweeted. "God has a plan."

About 2½ hours after the injury, Zimmer tried to straddle the line between expressing concern for a beloved teammate and keeping the rest of his team from losing focus and confidence.

Zimmer addressed the team in full and was clearly upset for Bridgewater, a player he quickly bonded with after he was drafted in the first round in 2014. But he also tried to steer the team's focus back to the field as the players prepare for their preseason finale against the Los Angeles Rams on Thursday night and the season opener at Tennessee on Sept. 11.

"I'm not going to let this team feel sorry for itself," Zimmer said before the full details of his injury were known. "We're going to grieve today and be upset about it. It's more about our feelings for Teddy and him as a person and getting better than it is about anything else. Teddy's a great kid and he'll be back as soon as he possibly can if it is real bad. But we're going to keep fighting."

Zimmer said he spoke to Bridgewater's mother several times to keep her updated, had some phone conversations with mentor

Bill Parcells and even talked "in spirit" to his father Bill, an ex-coach who died last summer, about how to best handle the situation.

"We're not going to stick our heads in the sand, we're not going to tuck our (tail between) our legs," Zimmer said. "We're not looking for excuses. We're going to go out and fight like we always do."

There is little behind Bridgewater on the depth chart. Shaun Hill is the primary backup, but he's 36 years old and has played only sparingly over the last five years. Taylor Heinicke, last year's No. 3 quarterback, has been out all preseason with an injury, and undrafted rookie Joel Stave has struggled mightily at times during practices.

Hill started eight games for the Rams in 2014, throwing eight touchdown passes and seven interceptions. Other than that, he has thrown a total of 23 passes dating back to 2010.

"I have confidence in Shaun," Zimmer said. "I think he's played great this preseason. He's been in 2-minute drills. He's done a phenomenal job."

The Vikings were counting on Bridgewater to take some major steps forward after a promising start to his career. He helped lead the Vikings to the NFC North championship last season as more of a game manager, but Zimmer and offensive coordinator Norv Turner had said they expected him to be much more of a playmaker in 2016.

Bridgewater missed the second preseason game with a sore shoulder, but was sharp Sunday against San Diego. He went 12 for 16 for 161 yards and a touchdown in two quarters of work.

"We're not going to stick our heads in the sand. We're going to figure out a way," Zimmer said. "Everybody can count us out if they want, but I think that'd be the wrong thing to do."

Yankees weather rain, Royals comeback



KANSAS CITY, Mo.
(AP)—Yan-

kees manager Joe Girardi knew he was putting young Chasen Shreve, just recalled from the minor leagues earlier in the day, into just about the most difficult spot possible.

Protecting a one-run lead with the bases loaded in the 10th inning in the midst of a playoff chase.

Against the reigning World Series champions, no less.

Shreve responded by calmly striking out Kendrys Morales, then retiring Salvador Perez on a fly out, to preserve a 5-4 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Tuesday night.

"I mean, it was really difficult," Girardi said of the mess Shreve inherited, which led to his first career major league save. "He came in and really picked us up."

The Yankees took the lead when Brian McCann and Chase Headley singled off Joakim Soria (4-6) in the 10th. Soria bounced back to strike out Aaron Judge and Tyler Austin, but then walked Brett Gardner before Jacoby Ellsbury lined a go-ahead single off the reliever's leg for his fourth hit of the night.

"That was an easy ground ball right to me. I don't know if I slipped or something, but I ended up on the ground," Soria said. "It's just one of those things."

Dellin Betances (3-4) earned the win with two innings of relief.

"We had a lot of opportunities we didn't cash tonight and that's going to happen," Girardi said, "but I thought winning this one was really big."

Orioles 5, Blue Jays 3

In Baltimore Matt Wieters hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Jason Grilli in the eighth inning, leading the Orioles to a victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

The Orioles pulled within three games of the first-place Blue Jays, who had won four in a row.

Michael Saunders tied it at 3 with a two-run homer against Orioles starter Ubaldo Jimenez in the seventh.

Mets 7, Marlins 4

In New York, Curtis Granderson came off the bench and homered twice, powering the Mets to the victory.

Asdrubal Cabrera extended his recent tear at the plate, hitting a two-run homer in his return to the lineup after missing one start due to a sore left knee. Rookie right-hander Seth Lugo (2-2) pitched six effective innings.



Nationals 3, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Max Scherzer struck out 11 in eight innings, helping Washington to the road win.

Scherzer (15-7) allowed two runs and three hits. Mark Melancon pitched a scoreless ninth for his 37th save.

Cubs 3, Pirates 0

In Chicago, Kyle Hendricks threw seven dominant innings to lower the majors' best ERA to 2.09 and Anthony Rizzo

homered in the Cubs' 21st victory in August.

Hendricks (13-7) allowed three hits and walked one. Carl Edwards Jr. worked the eighth and Aroldis Chapman finished the four-hitter for his 31st save.

Rangers 8, Mariners 7

In Arlington, Rougned Odor hit a game-ending two-run homer, sending the AL-best Rangers to the victory.

Odor's 25th homer was a

drive to the hill in center field on a 2-2 pitch from Edwin Diaz (0-3), who had converted his first 11 save chances of the season.

Indians 5, Twins 4

In Cleveland, Francisco Lindor drove in the go-ahead run in the fifth inning and Cleveland extended Minnesota's losing streak to 12 games.

Lindor's double off Alex Wimmers (0-1) snapped a 4-4 tie and helped the Indi-

ans maintain their lead over second-place Detroit in the AL Central.

Tigers 8, White Sox 4

In Detroit, Ian Kinsler homered and drove in four runs, helping Detroit rally for the win.

Kinsler came into the game hitting .085 (4 for 47) in his last 13 games, but he hit a two-run homer in the fifth and added a two-run single in Detroit's four-run sixth inning.

Determined to chase dream, Tebow shows power in MLB workout

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tim Tebow crushed a batting-practice fastball with a confident left-handed swing, sending it into the trees next to the scoreboard beyond right field.

The Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback only paused an instant to appreciate his shot, and then he went right back to work on the unlikely next chapter in his unique athletic story.

Tebow took his first big swings at a baseball career Tuesday, showing off a powerful bat and other developing skills during a workout in front of dozens of major league scouts and reporters.

The 29-year-old aspiring outfielder went through drills at the University of Southern California's Dedeaux Field for over an hour, confidently chasing a dream deferred for 12 years. Declaring his football career essentially over, Tebow insists he is serious about becoming more than a

baseball curiosity.

"The goal would be to have a career in the big leagues," Tebow said. "I just want to be someone to pursue what I believe in, what I'm passionate about. A lot of people will say, 'But what if you fail? What if you don't make it?' Guess what? I don't have to live with regret. I did everything I could. I pushed it. I would rather be someone that could live with peace and no regret than what-if, or being scared."

Tebow's heavily muscled, 255-pound physique and 6.70-ish time in the 60-yard dash were impressive to the scouts. He also showed undeniable hitting ability with a series of line drives and long homers during batting practice.

But Tebow also showed he still needs baseball seasoning when he faced live pitching from former big-leaguers David Aardsma and Chad Smith, who repeatedly fooled

him with off-speed pitches. Tebow could only grin in frustration after he fanned on a series of changeups and breaking balls.

"There is 100 percent nerves, no question about it," Tebow said. "When you're at the combine or a pro day, you have your body of work for four years, everything that you did, so it's not just that one day. Here, you might have seen me when I was 17, but you haven't seen me since. A lot goes into it, so you'd better show something. A lot of nerves, a lot of pressure, for sure."

Tebow hasn't played baseball regularly since his junior year at Nease High School in Ponte Vedra, Florida. He left early to enroll at Florida, beginning a fabled college football career that led to the 2007 Heisman and two national titles for the Gators.

But 12 years ago, Tebow was a .494-hitting, all-county outfielder who loved hitting a

baseball every bit as much as he loved leading a huddle.

"The second-hardest decision I ever made was giving up baseball to go to the University of Florida and play football," said Tebow, whose choice of Florida over Alabama was the toughest. "There wasn't a season that went by that it wasn't something that I thought about. When I felt like I had this opportunity, I wanted to take it and pursue it with everything I had."

A few big-league teams talked privately with Tebow after the workout, and he seems unlikely to have trouble finding an organization willing to give a chance to a celebrity with clear baseball ability, however rudimentary.

Tebow realizes he is still far from the big leagues, but he hopes to play in the instructional league in Arizona next month before heading into winter league ball, perhaps even in Latin America.

AP
New York Yankees shortstop Didi Gregorius, left, goes for a catch, while Kansas City Royals' Lorenzo Cain, right, dives at second base during the first inning of a baseball game at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Monday, Aug. 29, 2016.

Cardinals 2, Brewers 1, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, Zach Duke stranded the bases loaded with a strikeout in the 10th after Randal Grichuk hit an RBI single in the top half of the inning, lifting St. Louis to the road win.

Seung Hwan Oh (4-2) pitched out of a jam in the ninth to get the win. Duke got his first save with the Cardinals by striking out pinch-hitter Manny Pina after Matt Bowman walked three batters.

Astros 3, Athletics

In Houston, Collin McHugh threw six scoreless innings for Houston, and Colby Rasmus and Evan Gattis homered.

Rasmus put Houston up 1-0 with a homer in the second inning in his first at-bat since returning from the 15-day disabled list. Rasmus went on the DL on Aug. 5 with a cyst in his right ear.

Rays 4, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Evan Longoria broke a tie with a solo homer in the eighth inning, clearing Fenway Park's "Green Monster" and rallying Tampa Bay to the victory.

Tampa Bay's Luke Maile hit a two-run drive with two outs in the seventh for his second career homer. Enny Romero (2-0) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win.

Braves 7, Padres 3

In Atlanta, Julio Teheran won for the first time in 10 starts, and Braves rookie Dansby Swanson drove in three runs.

Teheran began the night with the lowest run support in the major leagues, but the two-time All-Star used a rare offensive outburst by Atlanta to earn his first home victory since last Oct. 2, a span of 14 starts.

Angels 4, Reds 2

In Anaheim, C.J. Cron isn't missing many pitches anymore.

Cron hit two home runs to help the Los Angeles Angels beat the Cincinnati Reds.

Mike Trout went 3 for 4 with two doubles and he scored on Cron's home run in the first inning and on Andrelton Simmons' bloop single in the eighth.

Solo decides to end her season with Seattle Reign

WASHINGTON—Goalkeeper Hope Solo has decided to end her season with the Seattle Reign of the National Women's Soccer League.

The beleaguered goalkeeper, who was handed a six-month suspension and saw her contract with U.S. Soccer terminated last week, announced her departure from her professional club team in a statement Tuesday.

U.S. Soccer suspended Solo following disparaging comments she made about Sweden during the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, calling her opponents a "bunch of cowards" for their defensive style of play during the quarterfinals. She won't be eligible for selection to the national team again until February.

Before a match last week against the Portland Thorns, the Reign announced Solo was granted an indefinite personal leave. Haley Kopmeyer took over for Solo in goal and the Reign won 3-1.

"Coming to terms with



the fact I was fired from the U.S. Women's National Team after 17 years of service has been devastating. After careful consideration, I have decided to end my sea-

son with the Seattle Reign, an organization I love playing for," Solo said Tuesday. "Mentally, I am not there yet. After watching the team's win against Portland this

weekend and seeing Haley Kopmeyer playing so well in goal, I truly believe this decision is what's best for me and for the Reign organization."

Reign head coach and gen-

AP
Hope Solo announced her departure from the Seattle Reign in a statement Tuesday.

eral manager Laura Harvey issued a statement saying that while the team was disappointed in Solo's decision, it was understood and respected.

"Hope has always wanted what is best for our team—she is a relentless trainer, a fierce competitor and demands from herself nothing less than excellence on the pitch," Harvey said.

The three-time defending champion U.S. women were handed their earliest-ever exit from the Olympics earlier this month when Sweden advanced 4-3 on penalty

kicks following a 1-1 draw on Aug. 12.

Sweden's coach, Pia Sundhage, who led the U.S. team to gold medals in Beijing and London, replied to Solo's postgame "cowards" comment by stating: "It's OK to be a coward if you win."

Sweden went on to play in the gold-medal match against Germany.

Solo had caused a stir in Brazil even before the comment about Sweden because of social media posts over the Zika virus, showing her wearing mosquito netting and armed with insect repellent. Brazilian fans booed her mercilessly and shouted "Zika!" every time she touched the ball.



SCHORR

From Page 28

the championship game, but the former remained on top of the U14 Circuit, heading into last month's 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships held in Fiji.

Schorr went on to cap his outstanding run in the division after clinching both the singles and doubles crowns (with Song) in the POJC, while Miyawaki finished sixth in the girls singles and second (with Kaga) in the doubles to slide to second in the Pacific Oceania U14 Circuit.

Miyawaki earned 3,490 points to beat 31 other players in her field and finish second, just 10 points behind POJC champion Eleanor Schuster of Samoa.

The circuit was created to match up the neighboring countries and have them ran U14 events with ITF assisting players, financially, so they can compete in tournaments outside their turf. Players in the U12 age group are also allowed to join the U14 Circuit

events to increase their competitive opportunities.

Once the calendar of events is completed, the top-ranked players will each receive a travel grant of \$500, which they can use for 2016-2017 season.

The other tournaments under the U14 Circuit were the Vanuatu Regional Championships held in December; Easter Open in Fiji in April; West Pacific Regional Championships also in Fiji in May; North Pacific Regional Championships on Saipan in June; and the East Pacific Regional Championships in Samoa last month.

Meanwhile, three other CNMI players made it to the Top 10 of the boys division of the U14 Circuit with Song placing at No. 4 with his 2,580 points and Sean Lee (1,000) and Tony Kim (900) occupying the No.8 and 10 spots.

In the girls division, Kaga was ranked No. 4 with her 2,580 points, while Raulerson (2,100) and Gregoire (1,180) ended up in fifth and eighth place, respectively.

CNMI

From Page 28

place in Group B of the qualifier with its 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record. The CNMI is at the bottom of the five-team field with its 0-0-2 slate, while South Korea (-1-0-0) is at second, followed by Malaysia (1-0-1), and Indian (0-0-1).

The Suzuki Taketomo-coached CNMI will face South Korea today in the first game at 11am (1pm Saipan time), while Malaysia takes on India in the second match at 4pm.

Dove women's league

Meanwhile, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will kick off the 2016 Dove Women's Masters Fall

League(Soccer Moms) and the Dove Women's A and B Fall League on Sept. 25 at the Chacha Middle School Field.

The masters league is open to players in the 25 and over age group. The B league is for players in the 13 to 24 age group, but under 13 players will still be allowed to join provided they get approval letters from their coaches and parents. The A league is for skilled players or those suiting up for the national teams. Both the masters and B leagues will use a 7 aside format, while the A league will be a 5-on-5 affair. Players can only enter in one division.

Interested teams are asked to submit a call for entry on or before Sept. 6 to NMIFA to determine the schedule of games.

Plumeria Swim registration deadline Friday



The Marianas Visitors Authority reminds all participants in this Saturday's 2nd Annual Plumeria Swim to register by Friday.

Mandatory orientation and the last day to register will be from 4:30pm to 5:30pm tomorrow at Paseo de Marianas. Participants must be in good health with snorkeling or diving experience.

"The weather has been just perfect this week and we are looking forward to a beautiful swim on Saturday," said MVA community projects specialist Ed Diaz. "We'd like to give a warm si yu' use ma'ase to all our sponsors and supporters who are helping us put up the event for our visitors and local participants."

Entry forms are still available on the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Swimmers head out to the courser during last year's Plumeria Swim at Pau Pau Beach.

The event has four race categories and welcomes swimmers with or without flippers. The cost for CNMI residents with valid I.D. is \$20 for the 500m or 1,500m swim; \$25 for the flipper race; and \$60 per team for 2,000m relay swimming—up to four mem-

bers per team. The flipper race requires swimmers to use wetsuits or life jacket and fins along with mask and snorkels.

The race will begin at 8:30am at Kilili Beach, followed by an island-style breakfast and awards ceremony at the beach. Awards

will be given to overall male/female, junior male/female, and male/female by age.

The event is jointly organized by MVA and the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan. Additional sponsors include Japan Marine Recreation Association, Japan Recreational Diving Industry Association, Japan Scuba Association, Japan Wetsuits Manufacturers Association, University Life Sport Education Society, and Northern Mariana Diving Operators Association. Co-sponsors include Delta Air Lines, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, DFS, and the CNMI Division of Public Health.

For more information, visit the MVA Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or call Diaz at 664-3210 or email ediaz@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

TRACK

From Page 28

the winning contractor. Once these are turned in, signatures of the involved parties will be required and the signed contract will be submitted to the CNMI Procurement and Supply, Office of the Attorney General, Governor's Office, and the contractor before returning it to CNMI Procurement and Supply.

NMHC allocated NMSA Program Year 2014 CDBG Funds in the amount of \$772,368 and Program Year 2015

CDBG Funds in the amount of \$132,744 for the resurfacing and renovation of the track and field facility. An additional \$250,000 from Marianas Visitors Authority will also be used for the project.

"We are still at least one month away before the contractor starts the project—more likely early October. Contractor has to provide documents before the contract gets the final signatures and go ahead to proceed," Barnes said.

"But we are almost there. When the contractor begins

work, he will have 150 days to finish the resurfacing. Tony (Rogolifoi) is the project director so all requests should go through him when the resurfacing begins. I have been working on the resurfacing grant for two and half years so a few more weeks will not be a problem," the CNMI Sports Hall of Famer added.

The Oleai track and field facility was built in the early 2000 and years of use plus the weather condition on island and careless users damaged it. Bubbles have formed around the rubberized track

oval, while some of its fences were also brought down by typhoons that hit the island in the last several years.

Resurfacing and repair works are needed to regain the facility's Level II certification from the International Association of Athletics Federations and help the CNMI host big tournaments, such as the 2021 Pacific Mini Games. The facility, once repaired and improved, could also be offered as a training venue for neighboring countries that will prepare for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

5th Genesis Cup Adults & Youth Division Playoffs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Ezekiel's Jun Marilla tries to keep the ball away from Caleb's Russel Dequito, right, and Yosh Gabaldon, third right, during their play-off game in the adults division of the 5th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Caleb's Yosh Gabaldon, center, faces the defense of Ezekiel's Jamin Dela Cruz, left, and Don Teregeyo.



Daniel's Rodel Morales, third left, wrestles the ball against Jeremiah's Mike Magofna, right.



Joel's Mark Ibanez uses the window for a point-blank shot against Nahum's Jason Wang during their playoff match in the youth division.



Haoyu Chen pulls up for a jumper against Joel defenders.



Joel's Ronnel Ocanada challenges the defense of two Nahum players.



Joel's Genrei De Leon loses the ball as he is surrounded by Nahum defenders.



Nahum's Chris Sacdalan gives up the ball as he is up against three Joel defenders.



Lawsuit pending,
Bouchard ousted;
Serena, Venus win

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



Yankees
weather
rain, Royals
comeback

PAGE 25

28 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Track resurfacing work nears start

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The resurfacing project at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility could start later this month or early next.

Northern Marianas Sports Association official Kurt Barnes, who worked for the grant for the facility and made a follow-up inquiry with the Northern Marianas Hous-



ing Corp. last Friday, said NMHC informed him that the process of gathering the needed documents could take about 2 to 3 weeks if

there are no discrepancies indicated by the concerned agencies.

NMHC is still waiting for procurement related documents (financial statements, Department of Labor and CNMI Revenue and Tax compliance) from

See TRACK on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Northern Marianas Sports Association official Kurt Barnes and contractors bidding for the resurfacing of the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility inspect the oval early this year.



SCHORR



MIYAWAKI

Schorr tops U14 Circuit rankings; Miyawaki 2nd

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Robbie Schorr lorded it over in the boys division of the Pacific Oceania U14 Circuit, while Malika Miyawaki finished in the Top 3.

Schorr collected 5,500 points to take the top rankings in the boys division, besting 50 other players in the region. Points came from the eight tournaments hosted by Pacific Oceania nations from November last year to last month.

CNMI falls to Philippines in AFC qualifier

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI U16 Girls National Team dropped its second game in the AFC U16 Women's Championships 2017 Qualifier, losing to the Philippines, 0-13, last Tuesday night at the Luneng Football School in Weifang, China.

The Commonwealth players gave up early goals to the Philippines, allowing the PH bets to pull away right at the end of the first half, 8-0. Defender Denise Graellos started PH's string of goals in the opening 45 minutes of play with her back-to-back shot in

the first and second minute. Midfielder Caitlin Levasseur made it three in a row for the Philippines with her conversion in the sixth, while

another midfielder—Tekanee Isulat—also knocked in a pair, scoring in the 13th and 32nd minute. Maeva Colatos, Hannah Villasin, and

Glynnes Dela Cruz hit the board, too for the PH, finding the back of the net in the 18th, 33rd, and 43rd, respectively.

Eight of the Philippines'

starters contributed to the team's offense with Danezza Graellos kicking things off for her team in the second half after scoring in the 47th. Isabel Mahoney (54th minute), Isulat (63rd), Stacey Ann Arthur (80th), and Regine Rebosura (84th) added one goal apiece in the final 45 minutes of play.

With the win, the Philippines moved up to solo first

See CNMI on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI U16 Girls National Team players sing the Commonwealth's anthem before playing against the Philippines in the AFC U16 Women's Championships 2017 Qualifier last Tuesday night at the Luneng Football School in Weifang, China.



The 7th
Annual Tan
Holdings Tennis
Classic

was one of the competitions under the U14 Circuit with Schorr ruling the U14 singles after beating Ken Song in the finals. Schorr also won the doubles (with Ken Song) to gain 1,250 points.

Miyawaki duplicated Schorr's feat after downing Conatsu Kaga in the U14 singles finale and teaming up with the latter in prevailing over Asia Raulerson and Maria Gregoire in the doubles title match.

The 14-year-old Schorr added more points to his credit in March this year when he defeated Song anew in the U14 finals in the Chamorro Open held in Guam. Miyawaki joined the same tournament and was stunned by Kaga in

See SCHORR on Page 26